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Palestinian Affairs

Israeli authorities barred Gaza attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah from traveling to Cairo, although Abu-Rahmah had obtained a permit to leave Gaza for Egypt via the Rafah crossing, AL-QUDS radio reported. The Israelis also placed two members of the Palestinian peace talks' executive committee under administrative detention on 16 June, Algiers Voice of Palestine revealed. In other news, 'Arafat adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif called for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation to be established "before the end of the year," AL-DUSTUR disclosed.

Israel

In the aftermath of the release of two German hostages from Lebanon, "defense sources" asserted that the "Lebanese hostage affair will not be over" as long as Israeli MIA's and POW's remain unaccounted for, Tel Aviv radio reported. Israel expects Iran to "use its influence in Lebanon" to help free detained Israelis, according to the radio. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that security forces placed Walid Zaqut, a member of the advisory council to the Palestinian peace talks delegation, under six months' administrative detention. In another development, a Peace Now movement report cited by Jerusalem radio says Likud "has been concealing" the accelerating rate of settlement construction in the territories in recent months.

Islamic Affairs

In his speech to the emergency ICO session on Bosnia-Hercegovina in Istanbul, Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa said Serbian "massacres" against the Bosnian people made it incumbent on ICO members "to firmly confront the treacherous aggression." Musa urged the UN Security Council to intensify sanctions on Yugoslavia, called on countries to recognize Bosnia-Hercegovina's independence and asked ministers to "work to ensure the return of the refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina." Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati termed the incidents in Bosnia-Hercegovina "among the most bitter" in the Islamic world, Tehran radio reported. Ankara ANATOLIA cited the Bosnian foreign minister as saying that only military intervention could "halt Serbian attacks on the Muslim and Croat population of Bosnia-Hercegovina."

Iraq

In a letter to the United Nations Baghdad has condemned "cowardly acts" by U.S. aircraft, according to INA. U.S. planes have reportedly dropped "flaming torches" on agricultural lands and set fire to the harvest, representing "a flagrant and unjustified violation."

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Countries Considering Forming Single Army

LD1706195492 Rabat MAP in English 1257 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Kuwait, June 17 (MAP)—Member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are currently pondering the possibility to set up a single army, as proposed by Sultan Bin-Sa'id al Sa'id of Oman, said chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Army.

In an interview with "SAWT AL-KUWAIT", Jabir al-Khaled al-Sabah said GCC countries need a strong and powerful army and are called to purchase modern technology in armament matters.

No Syrian Objection to PLO Office in Damascus

PM1706145692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Syria Does Not Object to PLO's Return to Damascus and Opening an Office in Beirut"]

[Text] Amman—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Syrian authorities do not object to a return of the PLO offices to Damascus and the opening of an office in Beirut.

A Palestinian official revealed that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, submitted a request to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to open a PLO office in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, to administer the Palestinian camps' affairs and to be supervised by PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut, a senior PLO official.

Al-Shar' promised Qaddumi that he would work with the Lebanese Government to that end.

The Palestinian official said that the Syrian authorities expressed reservations about the entry of 136 Fatah members accused of executing bombing operations in Syria at the time of the Syrian-Palestinian dispute after 1983. The Syrian authorities gave the names of these members who worked under the command of Colonel Hawwari and Major Jamal Salim. It should be noted here that Col. Hawwari died in a car accident on the Amman-Damascus road some months ago and that Maj. Jamal Salim died a year ago in Cairo after a brief illness. He had just one kidney and suffered from ill health.

ACC Selling Property; Activity 'Frozen'

JN1706105092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Caroline Faraj in Amman]

[Excerpt] Informed sources stated that the General Secretariat of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] is now taking an inventory the equipment and furniture available in its Amman headquarters for the purpose of selling them!

ACC Assistant Secretary General Dr. Hisham Hasan Tawfiq described the information as part of the Council's internal measures.

He told AL-RA'Y that selling or keeping the property of the General Secretariat depends on the size of activity and the need for staff and available facilities.

Dr. Tawfiq stated that the ACC member states [Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen] have not publicly taken any negative position toward the Council. He stated: The General Secretariat has not been notified of anything about this. Our activity is frozen, and we have no work on a quadripartite level, although some limited bilateral contacts do exist. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Emergency Session Views Bosnia-Hercegovina

Egypt's Musa Delivers Speech

NC1706172092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, 17 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa delivered Egypt's speech at the ICO's [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers emergency meeting that opened in Istanbul today to discuss Bosnia-Hercegovina. Herewith the text of his speech:

Mr. President; your excellencies, the foreign ministers; ICO chairman; ladies and gentlemen: Allow me to express my appreciation and gratitude to Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and the Turkish Government and people for their initiative in holding this important extraordinary meeting in which we express our support to the fraternal people of Bosnia-Hercegovina in their difficult ordeal, which is the result of Serbian aggression against their freedom, independence, and territorial integrity.

I would also like to express my appreciation to ICO Chairman Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid and the members of the ICO General Secretariat for their studious efforts in preparing for this meeting.

You may recall that, at its 19th ministerial meeting in Cairo in August 1990, the ICO adopted a resolution outlining the Muslim nation's strategy in coping with and adjusting to international developments on the basis of sound understanding, clear vision, and initiative. Our plan was to be actual participants rather than bystanders in the new world order. President Mubarak stated that desire in the speech he gave opening that meeting.

Our organization was a pioneer in predicting the possible repercussions of the Yugoslav crisis; the final communique of the 6th ICO summit, held in Dakar last December, expressed fear that the ongoing military operations in Yugoslavia would spread to Bosnia-Hercegovina. The summit voiced support for the territorial unity of that newborn state and its legitimate, elected leadership.

The ICO has always been opposed to aggression and has supported peoples' right to self-determination and to defend their freedom and independence.

As part of the Islamic solidarity—expressed in the prophet's words "believers should stand shoulder to shoulder to support each other"—we met today to discuss a problem involving a Muslim people being subjected to possible genocide, annihilation, and the partition of their country in a manner that violates international law—as the international community has expressed from several platforms already—and the basic human right to live and enjoy freedom.

International legitimacy is indivisible. Rejecting aggression is the basis on which our world has been built. Our world emphasizes peoples' right to self-determination and their right to choose their political and economic systems without foreign intervention or externally-imposed guardianship.

Adhering to these principles in dealing with the world, Egypt recognized Bosnia-Hercegovina as an independent state and welcomed it into the United Nations, knowing that it would support world peace and security with all peace-loving nations. Egypt raised the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina at various international platforms to garner international support for the Bosnian people's just cause and to stop the Serbian aggression on their land.

This is the position we adopted and will continue to adopt at various international forums and within the Nonaligned Movement [NAM].

At the NAM meeting in Larnaca last February, the Egyptian delegation criticized Yugoslavia's continued NAM leadership. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [SFRY], which was elected to lead the movement, no longer existed in both the political and geographical sense.

Acting on this belief, Egypt's delegation to the NAM meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, last May raised the problem of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, demanded the immediate withdrawal of Serbian troops from the republic, and requested that a peacekeeping force be sent to restore peace and security in the republic. The press release issued after that meeting included a paragraph that emphasized these demands.

Due to the continued Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina, the mass killings, and the blockade on humanitarian aid supplies, I sent a message to the UN secretary general on 20 May calling for immediate UN intervention to protect the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina; to force the aggressors and their militias to immediately withdraw from the territory of this newborn state; and to safeguard its territorial integrity against aggression and plots of partition.

On 30 May, Egypt decided to withdraw its ambassador from Belgrade to protest the continued Serbian aggression. Egypt sent food and medical supplies to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and is currently holding talks with the appropriate UN bodies to ensure the safe arrival of the supplies.

In pursuance of these efforts, Egyptian delegations at the United Nations conducted separate and collective talks with the Security Council members and the other countries to urge the Council to impose sanctions on Federal Yugoslavia—Serbia and Montenegro—in implementing UN principles.

The Islamic countries' efforts have greatly contributed toward the issuance of Security Council Resolution 757 on 30 May, which imposed sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro, and Resolution 758 on 8 June, which ensured the protection of Sarajevo airport in preparation for ensuring the arrival of humanitarian aid to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

I would like to emphasize that Egypt is fully prepared to participate in any UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Hercegovina to protect the people and ensure the arrival of humanitarian supplies.

Mr. President, the continued Serbian aggression against the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the massacres committed against them make it incumbent on us to firmly confront this treacherous aggression—which disregards all human values and principles and challenges international legitimacy and the will of the United Nations as represented in the Security Council resolutions. We, therefore, demand the following:

1. That the Security Council intensify sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—Serbia and Montenegro. It should also adopt other measures to stop the vile aggression and provide immediate protection to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, lift the siege, and provide humanitarian aid supplies;

2. That all peace-loving countries recognize the independence and territorial integrity of the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and give it all means of support;

3. That we not recognize the right of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—Serbia and Montenegro—to succeed the SFRY until an agreement is reached among all the units that constituted the old Yugoslavia and until it withdraws its forces from Bosnia-Hercegovina, halts its support for the Serbian militias there, and recognizes the independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina; and

4. That we work to ensure the return of the refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina to their homeland as soon as possible.

On the other hand, we believe that this conference should decide to form a committee to follow up the implementation of the resolutions to be issued; to coordinate the Islamic states' positions with the various international forums, particularly the UN; and to contact the other international groups to mobilize world public opinion in support of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. We may decide to ask the five-member committee, which was previously formed at the level of the permanent delegates in New York, to carry out this mission.

We also call on the ICO secretary general to establish a fund for humanitarian assistance to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina to provide urgent relief supplies to this fraternal people and look into the possibility of broadening the fund's activities in the future to include material and technical assistance for reconstructing the war-damaged areas of cultural heritage and assisting this newborn state in rebuilding its economy.

Mr. President, the ICO has always stood up in the face of aggression, regardless of the source, backed those being oppressed, and supported their aspirations for freedom and self-determination, regardless of doctrine, race, or color. From this premise, we view our meeting today as our organization's contribution toward realizing the foundations and principles of international legality, joining the other world countries in upholding justice and repulsing aggression and confronting tyranny. All factions of the world community have joined us in confronting the acts of aggression, persecution, and annihilation to which the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina are being subjected at the hands of Serbian troops.

We appreciate the efforts exerted by other countries, whether within the EC, CSCE, or the United Nations, to back the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Today's meeting must not be viewed as a challenge against anybody; rather, it is an act of cohesion on the side of right and justice. This is what we have always done, regardless of the aggressor or the target of aggression, inspired by Almighty God's saying: "Say ye: We believe in God, and the revelation, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to all prophets from their Lord: we make no difference between one and another of them: and we bow to God (in Islam)." [Koranic verse] Indeed, God has spoken the truth. May God guide us toward what is best for the Muslims and the nation of Islam. May peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Musa, Ministers Hold 'Intense Talks'

NC1706182992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, 17 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the Islamic conference currently in session in Istanbul will support action to confront aggression against the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to enhance Islamic support for that republic.

He said the draft resolution currently under discussion involves a number of specific steps, primarily in support of the UN action in accordance with the recent UN Security Council resolutions on the basis of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter and to demand that a peacekeeping force be dispatched to Bosnia-Hercegovina to protect its international borders and sovereignty and monitor the situation after a cease-fire has been established.

The resolution will also call on all Islamic Conference Organization members to recognize Bosnia-Hercegovina, demand the implementation of the UN sanctions against Serbia, agree on a program for assisting Bosnia-Hercegovina, and provide necessary humanitarian aid and develop a program for [word indistinct] it.

Musa described the steps projected in this draft resolution as specific, adding that world mobilization will continue in the form of contacts, consultations, and meetings.

The foreign minister said he held a series of intense talks with Islamic foreign ministers on the sidelines of the Istanbul meeting. He noted that he met with the Bosnian prime minister and representatives of Croatia and Slovenia.

Musa also said that he met with the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries and discussed the agenda of their next meeting, the date of which is unknown and under discussion.

Iran's Velayati on 'Bitter Incidents'

LD1706174592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati today elaborated about our country's positions toward the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis. He was speaking at the ICO foreign ministers extraordinary session. Our correspondent reports from Istanbul:

Our country's foreign affairs minister, Mr. Velayati, made a speech today at the ICO foreign minister's session. He said that the incidents occurring in Bosnia-Hercegovina are among the most bitter incidents in the world of Islam. He said: For the past few months, Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina have experienced the most severe military attacks and mental and psychological pressures under the aggressive attacks of the Serb armed forces. They witness the killing of their sisters and brothers each day. He added: The current war in Bosnia-Hercegovina, before becoming an ethnic or tribal clash, is clear fratricide against Muslims. He noted: Unfortunately, the recent UN resolutions, such as a decision to

impose a boycott against Yugoslavia, even though effective up to a point, was approved only after thousands of innocent Muslims of the region were killed or made homeless.

Velayati Meets With Counterparts

NC1706181692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] In Istanbul today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Muhammad Shuvengic, deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina [title as heard], who briefed him about developments in the republic and the aggression to which the republic's people have been subjected.

Musa reiterated Egypt's support for Bosnia-Hercegovina's independence and sovereignty, adding that Egypt will back all the demands Bosnia presents to the Islamic meeting so that the republic's people can realize the goal of maintaining peace and security. He affirmed that Egypt is fully prepared to offer all types of urgent humanitarian aid, noting that a shipment of relief aid destined for Bosnia-Hercegovina has already been prepared.

Musa also met with a number of Islamic foreign ministers on the sidelines of the meeting, which began its work in Istanbul today to discuss the Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Musa met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hekmet Cetin; Mustapha Ben Said, Tunisian secretary of state for foreign affairs; Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Abdullah Alatas; Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The meetings discussed the draft resolution on Bosnia-Hercegovina, Serbia's and Montenegro's inheritance of old Yugoslavia, and preparations for the next Nonaligned Movement meeting, scheduled to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

[Cairo MENA in English at 1450 GMT on 17 June carries a report on Musa's activities in Istanbul, which adds: "Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a meeting this afternoon with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently here to attend the Islamic foreign ministers conference. They discussed topics on the agenda of the emergency conference, particularly the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The two ministers stressed the necessity of issuing a clear-cut resolution for putting an end to the Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Hercegovina and preserving the independence and territorial integrity of this former Yugoslav republic."]

Bosnian Minister Urges Intervention

TA1706210092 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1705 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, June 17 (AA)—Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic [name as received] said here on Wednesday that military intervention was necessary to halt Serbian attacks on the Moslem and Croat population of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He was addressing an emergency meeting of foreign ministers from the Islamic Conference Organization convened in Istanbul at Turkey's request to discuss the continuing bloodshed in the strife-torn former Yugoslav republic.

Silajdzic said that UN-member Bosnia was a victim of attacks directed by the Serbian and Montenegrin authorities.

More than 6,000 people have been killed in ethnic violence between Serbs and independence-seeking Bosnian Moslems and Croats since the republic won recognition in April. Another 30,000 have been wounded in the fighting, which has left more than one million homeless.

The Bosnian foreign minister laid the blame for the devastation at the doorstep of the Belgrade government, which he accused of nurturing dreams of a Greater Serbia.

He complained of international indifference to continuing Serbian attacks and said this could neither be excused or explained. "Bosnia will remain a burden on the consciousness of the world," he said.

Silajdzic called for military intervention to stop the clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina and said that all Moslem countries should create the possibilities for such an intervention in line with UN agreements.

He also called on ICO member states to sever diplomatic links with Serbia and Montenegro and appealed for the creation of an emergency ICO fund to supply humanitarian aid for Bosnia.

In line with UN sanctions against Yugoslavia declared in May, Moslem countries like Iran and Egypt have withdrawn their ambassadors from Belgrade and Turkey has been rigorous in applying trade and air traffic restrictions but so far the embargo has failed to halt the fighting.

Turkey's Demirel on Serbian 'Adventurism'

TA1706111592 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers met in an extraordinary session in Istanbul today to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. In an opening speech, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel stated that if the tragedy in Bosnia-Hercegovina is to end, the Islamic community must continue to display an interest in the issue. Demirel stated: Reconstructing peace can become a concrete process only if we can affirm that we are ready to contribute with all our military and financial means to reinstate peace and

justice in Bosnia-Hercegovina, if and when necessary, and if and when we receive an appeal from the United Nations.

Demirel stated that in our day, ideological tensions have disappeared and democratic processes are being reinforced, but emerging aggressive nationalist movements and ethnic clashes threaten peace and stability. Pointing out that this situation affects communities that institute reforms and nurture bright hopes for the future, the prime minister stated: Regressive forces are trying to undermine those communities' chances for peaceful progress and development. Those forces not only obstruct their own people's escape from a totalitarian regime; they also attempt to destroy the hopes of neighboring states and peoples for peace and progress. You are now gathered here to help those people in the face of those aggressive forces that want to reverse the course of history and to raise your voice to reinforce the people's will to fight the tyrants who oppose them. The situation you are facing now is contrary to the spirit and awareness of our era. If we fail to fight effectively against these new kinds of aggression and confrontation, the promises for a better future may not materialize. We must, therefore, urgently develop the necessary preventive and corrective tools and actions to develop the international community's ability to counter aggression with new methods.

Demirel noted that the current tragedy in Bosnia-Hercegovina demonstrated this need in all its aspects. Remarking that the Turkish nation has been sharing a common destiny with the Balkan people for almost 500 years, Demirel stated that the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina are now being subjected to open aggression by Serbian forces, directed from Belgrade. The prime minister said that the loss of lives in the region has reached intolerable levels and that the suffering inflicted on innocent civilians has reached proportions that cannot be excused.

Demirel stated: It is impossible to reestablish peace in the Balkans without ending Serbian adventurism and aggression. The UN Security Council decided to impose sanctions to achieve that end and to deter the Belgrade authorities from their terrorist and expansionist dreams. Time will show whether the measures, which have begun to be implemented, will yield any results. The Islamic community—which has speeded up the UN Security Council resolutions about this crisis and which has assumed the leading role in shaping the content of those resolutions—should continue its interest in the problem. We have to create the atmosphere conducive to transforming the UN contributions aimed at putting an end to the clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina into a real effort to reestablish peace in that country. The current efforts to end the clashes can be described as nothing more than observer posts on a cease-fire line determined by the invaders and their collaborators.

Demirel said that it is necessary to guarantee the withdrawal of occupying forces to increase the effectiveness of the peace efforts. He added: Islam shoulders the responsibility and duty of bringing together people with different beliefs—be it in Bosnia- Hercegovina, the Caucasus, Cyprus, the Middle East, or any other region. I have no doubt that all these problems will be discussed in depth during this conference. The conflicts and disagreements we are facing—whether they are between our Arab brothers and Israel—between Azerbaijan and Armenia, or between the Turks and Greeks in Cyprus, should be solved through peaceful means. We must bear in mind that acquisitioning territory by using force or gaining unjust advantages over one's adversary is in no way acceptable and that just and sound solutions should be sought.

Demirel stated that ICO member countries give priority to their responsibility to contribute to establishing an international order in which freedom, peace, justice, legality, and development will be sovereign. He addressed the ICO foreign ministers as follows: You will be looking into the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and this is your opportunity to test those realities.

After Demirel's address, speeches were delivered on behalf of the African, Arab, and Asian groups. Speaking on behalf of the African group, Gambian Minister of Foreign Affairs Omar Sey said that it is the moral duty of the Islamic countries to extend aid to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to put an end to the Serbian aggression.

Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Amr Muhammad Musa, speaking on behalf of the Arab group, called for stronger and more effective measures to put an end to Serbian and Montenegrin aggression. Stressing that efforts to secure peace and international law should be increased, Musa added that every possible aid should be extended to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, who have been forced to escape from their homes.

Speaking on behalf of the Asian group, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed the belief that effective and practical steps toward ending the problems of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina will be taken at the ICO conference. Stressing the importance of joint efforts to put an end to the Serbian attacks, Velayati recalled that close to 2 million people have become refugees in former Yugoslavia.

Demirel on 'World Public Opinion'

TA1706211092 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel met today with some of the foreign ministers participating in the ICO foreign ministers' extraordinary meeting and answered journalists' questions. Demirel said that the primary aim of the ICO meeting is to create the necessary public opinion in favor of putting an end to incidents in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Pointing out that the ICO has no military force, Demirel said that what is important today is world public opinion. It is this public opinion that has the power to create a reaction, he added.

Responding to a question about whether the issue of establishing an Islamic peace force will be discussed, Demirel said:

[Begin Demirel recording] No. We are not talking about an Islamic peace force. Should the United Nations issue an appeal favoring a military intervention, the ICO member countries should join such an initiative. Turkey has already announced its position about this subject. We are ready to participate in such a UN force. [end recording]

Demirel added that a new world order is being established and that all developments will be occur in accordance with this new order.

Demirel later separately met with the Saudi Arabian, Iranian, and Egyptian foreign ministers and the ICO secretary general. Erdal Inonu, state minister and deputy prime minister, and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin were also present at the meeting.

Demirel, Saudi Foreign Minister Meet

LD1706201192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpts] In Istanbul today, the Turkish prime minister, Suleyman Demirel, met with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and head of the Kingdom's delegation to the extraordinary conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization, which began its proceedings in Istanbul today.

During the meeting, there was exchange of friendly talk and a conversation about relations between both countries, as well as about subjects of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Also in Istanbul today, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held a meeting on the sidelines of the ICO foreign ministers emergency session with 'Amr Musa, foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. According to MENA, the positions about the issues put forward for discussion at the Islamic conference were coordinated in the meeting.

Turkish Minister on Peace Force

TA1706212092 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin stated that Turkey is determined to provide troops for a Bosnia-Hercegovina peace force, to be established if necessary, adding that it still preserved its hope that the problem will be solved peacefully.

Following the first day of the ICO foreign ministers extraordinary meeting, Cetin held a news conference. Pointing out that the primary aim of the ICO meeting—realized through Turkey's initiative—is to assess developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Cetin said that the discussions during the first day of the meeting were extremely encouraging. He added that the draft statement Turkey prepared and submitted to the ICO member countries and the secretariat contained proposals for strictly implementing the UN sanctions on Slovenia and Montenegro and for establishing a fund for extending aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Pointing out that the draft statement also contains an appeal to member countries that have not yet recognized Bosnia-Hercegovina to do so as soon as possible, Cetin said that an appeal was also made for contributions for the preservation and restoration of that country's cultural heritage.

Cetin recalled that the representatives of the ICO member countries called during the meeting for an end to bloodshed in Bosnia-Hercegovina as soon as possible.

Cetin remarked that a consensus was reached during the meeting to the effect that if no results were reached through UN sanctions, force would have to be used under a UN umbrella and within UN regulations.

Declaring that the ICO meeting in Istanbul will provide encouragement for the United Nations, Cetin said that he was hopeful that a peaceful solution be found before more drastic measures are used.

Responding to a question, Cetin said that if troops were sent to the region under UN auspices, Turkey would participate in this force. Cetin concluded by pointing out that in view of the changing world conditions, problems cannot be solved through classic methods and that it is impossible to disregard dangers in which lives are at stake.

Cetin on 'Two-Faceted Mission'

TA1706210492 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1900 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Addressing the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers today, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said that the Islamic world is faced by a two-faceted mission in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He explained that these were the supervision of the full implementation of the UN sanctions and the readiness to contribute to deterrent measures that will be necessary.

Explaining that Turkey's aim is establishing in the Caucasus a region of prosperity where harmony and cooperation will reign, Cetin said that this cannot be realized as long as Azerbaijan's borders and territorial integrity are violated by Armenian aggressors.

He added that all legal rights of the Palestinians must be recognized. About the Cyprus issue, Cetin said that Turkey wants a solution based on a new partnership,

political equality, and a bizonal and bicommunal federation. This problem has lasted for 29 years. [passage omitted]

Turkmenistan Application Approved

TA1706210392 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpts] In its session this afternoon, the ICO foreign ministers unanimously approved Turkmenistan's application for full membership in the organization.

Later, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, the ICO term president, addressed the meeting. Recalling that the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the sufferings of the Bosnian people are the reasons for the holding of this extraordinary meeting, Cetin said that a large portion of Bosnia-Hercegovina—an independent and sovereign country—has been occupied through Serbian attacks that have cost the lives of so many people.

Recalling that the international community has taken some swift measures to prevent the Serbian aggression, Cetin noted that these initiatives have not been effective enough. Cetin stated that Turkey, located in the midst of countries with various local clashes, continued to act more than ever with its traditional responsibility and tried to safeguard regional and world security, stability, and prosperity.

Hamid al-Ghabid, ICO secretary general, and Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic also addressed the meeting. [passage omitted]

The ICO foreign ministers' meeting was held behind closed doors in the afternoon. A final statement on Bosnia-Hercegovina will be offered to the approval of the participants tomorrow. The statement calls for support of the sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution and includes the issue of aid to be extended to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Remarks

JN1706201992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Islamic foreign ministers began an emergency meeting in Istanbul to discuss the situation in war-torn Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Jordanian Foreign Minister, Kamil Abu-Jabir, who is now attending the meetings, told News at Ten via telephone that the Islamic conference will also discuss conditions in the occupied Arab lands.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] We want to ask you if you can brief us about the discussions and the issues that you are discussing now in the conference.
[Abu-Jabir] Well, the conference today discussed principally two matters: first, the terrible situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the various ideas that proposed how to deal with the situation, ranging from humanitarian aid—on the one hand—to demanding that the United Nations Security Council take more forceful measures to deal with the situation there. The second issue that was concentrated upon is the Palestinian question, particularly the peace process and the terrible situation of the population under occupation right now—whether in the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip—and the siege under which the people of Gaza have been subjected to for the past two weeks.

[al-Sha'ir] What sort of steps or moves would the conference take regarding the worsening conditions in the West Bank?
[Abu-Jabir] Well, everybody deplored the conditions and expressed support for the Palestinians and their legitimate aims of realizing their self-determination on their own soil.

[al-Sha'ir] Have you, or will you discuss the issue of returnees during this conference; the returnees who were expelled from the Gulf?
[Abu-Jabir] No, this was not discussed today, and in fact, I doubt very much that it will be discussed tomorrow, because this is, as you know, an exceptional or an extraordinary session of the Islamic conference and was called to principally discuss the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. But by the terms of the bylaws of the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Palestinian question is always on the agenda, regardless of the topic. So only these two topics have been discussed and these two topics only, alone.

[al-Sha'ir] Thank you very much, Dr. Kamil. [end recording]

Foreign Ministers Hold Sideline Meetings

JN1706200692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, 17 Jun (SANA)—On the sidelines of the extraordinary conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon met with Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Hikmet Cetin, in the presence of 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i, the Syrian ambassador in Ankara.

Their talks focused on bilateral relations and ways to expand them in the various fields. They also discussed several issues of mutual interest. Moreover, they exchanged views about the topics listed on the agenda of the extraordinary conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states in Istanbul.

Faruq al-Shar' also met with Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi. They discussed the situation in Algeria and bilateral relations.

The foreign minister this morning met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They discussed the agenda of the conference and issues of mutual interest.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Attends

NC1806090492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] An Azerbaijani delegation led by Foreign Minister Tofik Kasumov is attending the ICO foreign ministers conference in Istanbul. The conference, called by the ICO secretary general, will debate the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

AZERINFORM learned that the Azerbaijani delegation held talks with the ICO secretary general and the heads of other delegations. Kasumov reminded the participants of the need to debate Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

Palestinian Affairs

Gaza Attorney Barred From Leaving for Cairo

TA1806115692 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by "special" AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—The Israeli authorities yesterday barred Attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah from traveling to Cairo, despite the fact that he had obtained a permit from the authorities to leave the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing.

Abu-Rahmah was informed of this decision by telephone yesterday morning.

Israeli Authorities Arrest Peace Talks Delegates

LD1706190992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The Zionist occupation authorities yesterday detained two members of the executive committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations on the Middle East. They were put under administrative detention. Informed Palestinian sources pointed out that the Israeli police summoned yesterday brothers Faris Hassunah, who resides in al-Burayj camp; and Walid Zakut, who is from Gaza, for questioning, then they were placed under administrative detention.

The Israeli army spokesman confirmed that Zakut was placed under administrative detention for six months, but did not confirm the other detention or the reason behind such measures. It is noteworthy two other members of the executive committee were detained earlier. They were Jamal al-Suwayfi and Muhammad Hurani.

'Arafat To Chair PLO Meeting in Amman 18 Jun

JN1706083692 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jun 92 pp 1, 22

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian sources in Amman have said that President Yasir 'Arafat will chair an expanded meeting of the Palestinian leadership to be held at the Guest Palace tomorrow, Thursday.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that members of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee in addition to the Palestinian teams that participated in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations will attend the meeting.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and others will openly take part in the leadership meeting in what appears to be a PLO decision to emerge from the behind-the scenes position of steering its negotiating delegation.

The sources said that the Palestinian leadership will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the intifadah and the international situation, particularly the bilateral negotiations to be held in Rome following the announcement of the Israeli election results. The leadership will also discuss the situation in the occupied homeland.

The Palestinian sources did not rule out the possibility of discussing an integrated plan to unilaterally hold political elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as discussing the appropriate moves in the international and Arab arenas to mobilize international support for the elections in the occupied territories and the formation of a national authority to assume control from the occupation authorities in the various sectors.

This is the second meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Amman to be held under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat after he underwent surgery at the al-Husayn Medical Center approximately three weeks ago.

It is noteworthy that the U.S. letter of invitation to the bilateral negotiations and the letter of assurances which the Palestinian negotiating delegation received from the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker includes holding political "legislative" elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip between the upcoming months of September and November.

Abu-Sharif Calls for Confederation 'This Year'

JN1806080992 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jun 92 pp 1, 18

[Text] Tunis—AL-DUSTUR—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has called for establishing a confederation between Jordan and Palestine before the end of this year.

He said that proclaiming a confederation by the Jordanian and Palestinian parliaments will expedite the termination of the Israeli occupation.

He added that forming institutions for the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will greatly contribute toward

pushing the Security Council and the international bodies to implement international legitimacy resolutions. It will also greatly contribute toward mobilizing European support for our people inside the occupied territories as well as activating Europe's political role, he said.

Bassam Abu-Sharif said that the occupation forces' persecution of our people inside the occupied territories has escalated to a very serious level.

He stressed that the Gaza Strip in particular is suffering from a starvation war launched by Israel and its occupation forces. He noted that Palestinians are banned from working, and face the bullets of the occupation forces. He also noted that confronting the occupation will continue and escalate despite the brutality of the occupation forces.

PLO's Sha'th on Peace Talks, Israeli Elections

NC1806101192 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation before the end of the year would speed up the end of the Israeli occupation.

Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC] political committee, has called on Europe to play a greater role in the peace negotiations, particularly with their move to Rome at the end of July. This came at a news conference Sha'th held in London, where he is holding talks before Britain assumes the EC chairmanship in July.

Asked about ensuring a PLO leadership replacement, Sha'th noted that 'Arafat is the symbol whose leadership cannot be replaced through elections. He said a Palestinian leadership pyramid could assume power should anything happen to 'Arafat, until the PNC elects a new leadership. He said Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, are the only two figures entitled to lead the PLO in a transitional period.

When we asked Dr. Sha'th what the peace negotiations might achieve before 1 November, he said:

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] The invitations sent by cosponsors the United States and the Soviet Union pledged a start to a transitional Palestinian government on Palestinian soil and to a transitional period one year after the beginning of the peace process in Madrid. We consider this a deadline, [last word in English] not a target [last word in English].

[Correspondent] Do you believe Yitzhaq Rabin differs greatly from Yitzhaq Shamir and that a Labor Party victory might facilitate the peace process?

[Sha'th] We are not concerned with the rule of any alliance or prime minister in Israel. Rabin is not our model. He advocates a steel fist and breaking the bones of the intifadah's youths. There is not much difference between the two leaders on Palestinian self- determination and withdrawal. There might be a difference during a transitional period, but we do not want to rely on this or trust any Israeli politicians until we see results at the negotiating table and on the ground. [end recording]

PLO's Qaddumi Views Peace Talks, U.S. Relations

NC1706124292 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 16 Jun 92 p 9

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by George Saliba in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Saliba] What point has the peace process reached?
[Qaddumi] Anyone familiar with the peace negotiations knows Israel is avoiding any serious discussion and is procrastinating or raising bogus plans with the aim of wasting time. That was clear in its resorting to general elections so that there would be no serious discussion of the political settlement. Its proposals at the negotiations are not realistic; they are unfair proposals aimed at avoiding any serious talk of a political settlement. Add to this Israel's practices inside and outside the occupied territories, such as its unwarranted repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and its escalating terrorist operations against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. Official statements made by Israeli officials show conclusively that they do not want a political settlement of the Middle East problem. They believe the balance of power is tilting in their favor and that there is no need for any political settlement in the region, leaving Israel the dominant state able to do what it likes. Israeli intransigence has impeded the peace process. The world is now called on to impose sanctions against Israel, as they have been imposed on other countries, so that it will comply with the international will.

[Saliba] Looking at the global balance of power, do you notice that Israel does not enjoy the political cover it enjoyed in the past? Don't you also notice that the United States is moving much closer to the Arab positions? How do you view this?
[Qaddumi] The peace initiative is an American one. The United States must provide the factors for its success. If it fails, there will be no stability, security, or peace in the region. This is a great responsibility for the United States if it wants peace in the region. I believe its interests, primary among which are oil and energy, require stability to be maintained. It has control of the oil sources, qualifying it to create or provide all the factors for competition with other countries that could compete with it economically in the future, such as Japan and Germany. So it is eager for stability and knows that if the political settlement in the region fails, there will be no stability, and the region will be sitting at the top of a volcano. Let us consider this battle between the United States and Israel over the issue of halting the settlements.

The United States knows that Security Council Resolution 465 imposes not only a halt to settlements but their removal. We have agreed, as a phasic stage, to let the halting of Jewish settlements be the opening for the political solution, to which the whole world, not just the United States, also agreed. Therefore, we believe U.S. elections might impede the adoption of firm positions at this stage. We have not seen any decisive U.S. intervention through pressure on Israel to make it enter into serious negotiations. We do not expect anything from the United States until the end of the year, but, while it does not give full political cover, the United States must first of all pressure Israel to halt its attacks and practices, its attacks on south Lebanon and its terrorist practices inside the occupied territories. The Security Council must impose sanctions against Israel until it relents.

[Saliba] That is speaking in general terms, but if we go into detail we can see that the Palestinian question is the key issue in the peace negotiations. Do you feel that Israel and the world have recognized the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian homeland?

[Qaddumi] We have achieved tangible results in this field. The world recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights. When we presented our initiative in 1988, the UN General Assembly, the United States excepted, voted in favor of the Palestinian resolution. We are now waging this battle, if we can say that, to obtain official U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights and, basically, its recognition of the PLO. The U.S. initiative was based on the Security Council resolutions and the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights. This is partial recognition of these rights. We hope for full recognition, for recognition of the PLO and of our right to establish an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian territories.

[Saliba] The negotiations produced Israeli recognition of a Palestinian right to an autonomous administration, rather, an offer to grant them such an administration. Israel does not give the Palestinians rights to the land or water resources. What is your view of this issue and how are you dealing with it?

[Qaddumi] Autonomy is for minorities. We are a complete nation. Autonomy does not apply to the Palestinian people. There are more than 5.5 million of us and fewer than 3.5 million Israelis. Our population is double theirs, and we have the right to a state of our own. Small nations, such as Fiji and all those far-flung islands, have become UN members. The three Baltic states are another example. Look at how Yugoslavia has split up into small states that have been recognized. All this means that we are a people who have the right to a state, especially now, when every people's national and human rights are being recognized. If Israel has recognized a part of Palestinian rights, the world must make it recognize all their rights. I believe that history is moving in this direction. Every state that was established by coercion and annexed has collapsed. Regrettably, the USSR collapsed and split up into several states, Yugoslavia too, which means that the states that emerged out of particular circumstances after the Second World War split up. Israel is one of these states, and the symptoms of division will appear in it. If peace is established, Israel's contradictions will become more apparent. I will give you another example. The United States was established as a state more than three or four centuries ago, [time span as published], but when the time came the blacks in the United States revolted. Such contradictions will erupt at the right time, resurfacing if there are major contradictions within the society.

[Saliba] But this will happen over a long time, after peace is achieved—not now. Now we are looking at the issue of a nation that wants to have self-determination and rights to its land and water resources. What do you say to this?
[Qaddumi] First, we have struggled using every possible method, and we will not halt our struggle until the occupation ends, which is inarguable. As for the other issues, Israel's strategic value has decreased. There is no longer any need to resist the Soviet influence, which, as the United States claimed, threatened U.S. interests and which it called on its agent "Israel" to confront. There is no longer any need to defend the oil, the Suez Canal, or to strike against "the Arab liberation movement." Israel's strategic value as a Western project has been considerably reduced. The West's need of it has decreased as events have unfolded, but it remains in Western interests for Israel to continue to exist. But within what border? That depends on us, on our will, on our basic and continuing struggle, and on the regional historical factors that will emerge to act against this state that was established by coercion, contrary to natural historical development.

[Saliba] Additionally, the negotiations are in two parts: bilateral and multilateral. There are working committees in the multilateral talks, including one for water and another for settling Palestinians. Have you recognized the existence of a "Palestinian diaspora" or where a "Palestinian diaspora" is located? Or do you reject settlement?
[Qaddumi] This issue does not warrant discussion. We rejected settlement many years ago, from the time the refugees appeared. No Palestinian can accept settlement in any country but his own homeland; he will always insist on returning, which is an axiom; it does not warrant discussion. Concerning the multilateral and bilateral talks, the five Arab sides met in Damascus on 23 October. They agreed that the success of the multilateral talks necessitates achieving substantial progress in the bilateral negotiations, in other words, setting the timetable for withdrawal, the arrangements for it, and halting the settlements. Our side demands that the Palestinian territories be internationally supervised so that the withdrawal can be effected in phases. The Israelis did not attend the refugees committee meeting, because our brothers in the diaspora and the PLO did. We are one people, although we live in different places, inside or outside the territories. We will not allow this people or its institutions to be split up.

The multilateral talks' goals at the start were different from those imposed by the format the talks took. Had the multilateral talks remained limited to the Arab countries, the sponsoring countries, and Israel, the issue would have become one of normalizing relations. When other countries joined the multilateral talks, the issue took on a more general character, and the meetings turned into a seminar about boosting the peace process. Most of the delegations to the committees that met stated that substantial progress in the bilateral negotiations would render the multilateral conference a success.

We categorically reject autonomy. We are, as I have said, one people; autonomy is for minorities. The Palestinian people cannot relinquish their full national rights.

[Saliba] What point have you reached in the bilateral talks with the Israeli side?
[Qaddumi] I said we have not reached any result.

[Saliba] Not even from the dialogue aspect?
[Qaddumi] Not even from the dialogue aspect. Whenever we demanded something, they said they did not recognize the Palestinian people and that Resolution 242 did not apply to a settlement as far as the Palestinian issue was concerned. They do not recognize Resolution 194 (about returning the refugees) or the partition resolution, which is the birth certificate without which Israel could not have been established. This is what is called "obstinacy is blasphemy and blasphemy is obstinacy." [al-'inad kufr wa al- kufr 'inad] This is the Israeli stand. In the end, we know that recent world developments will bring about unexpected changes, which we do not want to predict now. These developments are giving us hope.

[Saliba] What is needed is more clarification, not more ambiguity. What is before the multilateral working committees is the issue of settling the Palestinian diaspora and that of distributing water. If we suppose there is progress in the bilateral talks and that what is proposed is to settle the Palestinians in Lebanon and Syria, don't you think this will undermine the progress made in the bilateral talks?
[Qaddumi] Neither the Palestinian negotiator nor any Palestinian can accept settlement. This issue is categorically rejected as a principle.

[Saliba] But such principles are being broached at the peace conference. Participation in the conference means such principles are acceptable.
[Qaddumi] If such principles are discussed—and no one has broached them with us—we will certainly state that there cannot be resettlement. Let me paint you a picture of the recent developments in the region. The Palestinians have been expelled from the Gulf. According to the social theory, the social forces driving the Palestinians toward the occupied land are stronger than those driving the Jews toward Palestine. From this perspective, the Palestinian tendency is to head for the Palestinian land. In peace or war, more so in peace, the social pressure on the Palestinians to return to the occupied land increases. The year 1948 witnessed the Palestinians being forcibly dispersed from Palestine, toward the Arab land in the east. Now the tendency is to head west to Palestine, which is a natural social process. After so many years, we noticed migration to the Palestinian occupied territories dropping, but it continues and once peace is established the Palestinians will increasingly be driven toward Palestine. There are considerable social pressures on Palestinians to do that, meaning that they will seek residence in every part of the occupied land. Rhetoric aside, we cannot accept resettlement, even if the settlement talks last seven more years.

[Saliba] This is the Palestinian point of view. What about the Israeli perspective? Do you not think the Israelis know about that and will try to forestall it?
[Qaddumi] Yes.

[Saliba] What will you do then?
[Qaddumi] In 1948, following the allies' victory, the world, East and West—the Socialist camp and the Western countries—favored establishing Israel. We, the Arabs, had the force to crush the Zionist force then, but the historical and political process at the time favored Israel's establishment. The Arabs caused their own "defeat" back then; they were not actually defeated by the Israelis. As I said, Israel was founded as a result of certain political and historical factors. Today we may conclude that all the historic, political, and social factors favor establishing the Palestinian state, particularly in view of Israel's current weakness and feebleness.

[Saliba] Don't you fear the possibility of another defeat being brought upon the Palestinian people?
[Qaddumi] I do not expect another defeat. I believe that current, or contemporary, developments are in our favor.

[Saliba] Let us examine the negotiations. We know the United States may provide catalytic ideas aimed at moving the bilateral negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides toward what America calls substantial talks. Can you shed some light on the American input?
[Qaddumi] Following recent developments, the end of bipolarity and the let-up in international conflict, we see the historical march of humanity getting closer to normal, in the sense that the conflict between the superpowers has disappeared. There is one state trying to dominate the world with no rivals right now. Humanity's march is proceeding slowly in the right direction, despite U.S. pressure. The United States and the Soviet Union shared the world between them but could not lead it to peace. Now the Soviet Union has disintegrated

The United States cannot control everything. Events, developments, and problems will appear, which the United States will be unable to address. Other powers will appear, to divert the United States' attention from many problems. The world is changing, and its forces and nations are more inclined toward freedom, human rights, independence, and removing and liquidating colonialism. We are currently witness to the peaceful liquidation of racism and regional conflicts.

The Arab region controls more than 56 percent of oil reserves. After the Gulf war, the United States guaranteed the flow of oil to Western nations and reduced its production to import cheap oil; oil production in our region costs less than in the United States.

They [not further specified] know that the Palestinian problem is important to every Arab, an issue apart from any other Arab issue. It is a source of worry and tension as well as of wars and regional conflicts. Without its solution there cannot be peace, security, or stability.

After the Gulf war, the PLO was among the countries [as published] that were candidates for sanctions. They [not further specified] know they cannot punish the PLO through sanctions, economic blockades, or strikes on certain areas. Impose sanctions and you will discover that the Palestinian issue has penetrated every Arab country, from east to west. They [not further specified] know that if the settlement fails, the oil regions will go up in flames or, at least, will be unstable. The oil regions will explode, because their rulers will be unable to control their nations if the settlement fails. These nations will accuse their rulers of being traitors. Therefore they [not further specified] need stability and need to pull Israel's teeth to make it able to protect itself but incapable of mounting attacks on its neighboring Arab countries. Some Arab countries neighboring Israel were allied to the United States during the Gulf war.

[Saliba] From the Palestinian perspective, to what extent does the PLO believe that Israel has fully conformed to U.S. policy?
[Qaddumi] So far, we cannot say Israel has conformed or adjusted to the general framework of developments in U.S. policy, but the outline of change began with the support of Yitzhaq Rabin inside Israel. This does not mean we agree with the United States on this policy, but we must note these developments objectively. U.S. pressure inside the U.S. Congress [as published] and President George Bush's rejection of all the Congress proposals for granting loans to Israel undoubtedly show that the United States has a constant policy about settlements, because it knows it is the only gateway to serious negotiations leading to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. Interaction started inside Israel and inside the Jewish leadership in the United States, where a poll found that most Jewish leaders do not agree with Yitzhaq Shamir—that no regional compromises should be made. They do not agree with his view that settlements should continue or with Yitzhaq Rabin's view that they be stopped temporarily. Therefore, parts of or large sectors inside Israeli society have started to respond to the developments in U.S. policy. We will see more signs of this in the outcome of the Israeli elections.

[Saliba] We have clearly seen Palestinian political thinking quickly adapt or try to benefit from the new international changes. Can you detail current Palestinian political thinking?
[Qaddumi] Following developments, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the era of polarization, we see the world taking a political path that is different from the previous path. There is a trend toward resolving regional conflicts peacefully. The solution we are now working on is not only for the Middle East but also comprehensively settles all regional conflicts. It is a comprehensive settlement like those of World Wars I and II. We lost in World War I—the Arab countries were divided—and we lost part of Palestine after World War II. The time has come to retrieve what we have lost. We have only one choice, a compulsory course or political battle in which we must achieve something. First, a siege was imposed on us, and we broke it. Some Arab countries even imposed a siege on us then at the time of the Gulf war or dropped the PLO from their calculations. This was shown in the Damascus Declaration, involving the Gulf Arab states, Egypt, and Syria. The other Damascus declaration came on 23 October, when the five Arab sides met in Damascus, and wiped out all the effects of the first. We established good relations with our brothers in the Arab countries. Egyptian media attacked us ferociously but no more. We were estranged from our brothers in Syria, but that is water under the bridge, and we are now coordinating with our brothers in Damascus at the highest levels. Our relations with our brothers in Jordan have strengthened. We have undoubtedly benefited from such developments, because we realized our position on the world political map. We have assumed our position cautiously and maintain it. The Palestinian issue has assumed great importance; it has regained its position and importance in the world's list of priorities. Let us add that by embarking on this process, or compulsory path, we have warded off all evils from the Palestinian issue. We also started to restore Arab solidarity and joint action. We held several meetings and, as it used to be, we are very keen to build the Arab front through the Arab League. We started a dialogue with the United States, the only country that did not support us at the highest level in 1988. Our brothers inside the territories are talking to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and also met U.S. President George Bush.

This is the dialogue as we see it. They, the Arab brothers, are part of us, and we are part of them. Those inside the occupied territories have united with those outside the territories. We are consulting with each other, coordinating positions, and cooperating. Previously, we heard complaints from those inside, stating that when they carried out political action, we were the last to know about it. Nowadays, we are all involved in the process, so we say that the Palestinian people's political unity has been achieved. And we add this: The United States has heard the same things we are saying away from our brothers who are inside the occupied territories, bolstering the PLO's credibility. We in the PLO started getting our information from the original sources. Europe has lifted its siege on us; we started to meet European officials following the Gulf war. They are now speaking to us directly about the future of the peace process and are cooperating with us. We even notice that their support for the Palestinian people's national rights

is now more pronounced. We thus see that Palestinian political thinking has realized the importance of the period that follows a turning point in history, like those after World Wars I and II and now in this third war [a reference to the collapse of the Soviet Union]. We followed this compulsory path so that we would not be left outside the process.

[Saliba] Let us take a more general view. Do you think the region's leaders have understood the changes and have begun to adjust to them so that they might benefit from them? How do you see the facts in the region today? Which regional powers will have influence in future?
[Qaddumi] The basic parties to the settlement are: Palestine, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. There are also our Egyptian brothers, considering that they resolved their issue with Israel through the "Camp David" accords and reached agreement with Israel. These are the powers that are expected to play a basic role in the region, now and in the future. Doubtless, cooperation and coordination among them is necessary. The negotiations might be quick, and they might not be. The region is now a hotspot, and there is an international tendency to calm regional hotbeds of tension. The hottest one is the Middle East, particularly now, because this region is full of oil and if it erupts again the oil will go up in flames just as it did during the Gulf war.

[Saliba] Is this not impermissible?
[Qaddumi] It is. That being so, the Arab-Israeli conflict must be resolved, which means the Palestinian people must regain their national rights and Israel must withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, including southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

[Saliba] Let us return to the subject of the Amman meeting. [a reference to the 7 June meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers] We notice Jordan actively participating in the multilateral negotiations' committee meetings, while the Syrian-Lebanese position expresses reservations. The PLO's position appears to be the closest to the Jordanian position. How do you evaluate the political situation, and how will you profit from it? What is Lebanon's fate in light of the events in the south?

[Qaddumi] There is a theory that unites contradictions—apparently, they are not actually contradictions. We are saying that each position has its justification. Jordan is not negotiating but has given the PLO an umbrella under which to join the negotiations. Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon are doing the actual negotiating. Undoubtedly, everyone's basic concern is to achieve progress in the bilateral talks, which poses no problem to the PLO, nor do the multilateral talks. The PLO's problem is representation. If the PLO does not join the multilateral talks at the beginning, it will not join them in their final stages. Syria and Lebanon can join the multilateral talks whenever they want and when concrete progress is achieved in the bilateral talks. We fought our battle within the multilateral talks to establish the principle that the PLO and the Palestinian diaspora must be represented. The Madrid formula, meanwhile, does not apply to us. For us, the battle is one of representation. For us, attending the multilateral talks is an act of representation, which is different from the Syrian and Lebanese position. Jordan must play an active role. It is trying to tackle the peace process directly. The multilateral negotiations were designed at the beginning—as Shamir proposed—to normalize Arab-Israeli relations and to include the Arabs, Israel, and the cosponsors of the talks as negotiators. When other countries joined the multilateral conference, the danger of normalization disappeared, so, having discussed the issue in detail within the PLO, we decided that our position should be one of rejected attendance [al-hudur al-Marfud], meaning we would attend to say: These countries have no justification for saying the PLO refused to attend or the Palestinians refused to attend and therefore cannot enter. No. We were there in Moscow, but we refused to enter except on our own conditions. We actually achieved a big success. Our presence there precluded any possible discussion of items that were later on the agenda of the four-way al-'Aqabah meeting, which discussed the environment. The Palestinian issue was prominent, so the countries that attended the Moscow conference felt compelled to come to the Palestinian delegation to discuss Jerusalem, avoiding holding any meeting with the Israelis. The plan achieved the desired results. The multilateral talks continue to be made up of seminars that have no authority or program. They are mere seminars that submit recommendations or reports to an international committee.

[Saliba] Do you feel that in the end the negotiations will lead to a comprehensive deal or several partial deals?
[Qaddumi] As Arabs, we emphatically reject partial and unilateral solutions. The solution must be comprehensive. Otherwise, we will fall prey to the possibility of making numerous concessions.

New Fatah Officials, Organs in Lebanon

NC1806105492 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Jun 92 p 5

[Report by Ahmad Muntish in Sidon]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian sources have revealed that most Fatah Movement leaders have returned to Lebanon after concluding the meetings they started in Tunis about a month ago. The sources said these meetings reorganized the various Fatah bodies and leaderships in Lebanon and addressed other issues, such as settling the affairs of the families of martyrs and their monthly allowances.

The sources clarified that the Fatah presence has been given a regional basis, with accredited representatives getting replaced by officials as Fatah secretaries as follows:

Zayd Wahbah, Lebanon; Lieutenant Colonel Fathi Abu-al-'Ardat, Sidon; Lieutenant General Yunus 'Awwad,

Beirut, Khalid 'Arif, Jabal Lubnan, Fayyal Farhat, al-Biqa', Rif'at Shina'ah, al-Shamal, and Munir Muqaddam, al-Zahrani.

Lieutenant Colonel Anwar Madi was appointed official responsible for the Fatah militia in Lebanon.

Wajih Gharbiyah remains official responsible for armed struggle; Aminah Jibril retains the post of social affairs; Talib Salih, official responsible for media; Mahmud al-Asad, finance; and Lieutenant Colonel Kamal Midhat, previously responsible for military intelligence, public relations.

The sources noted that these changes have been made to end an armed military presence, keeping the militia forces only.

Gorbachev Shows 'Contempt' for Fate of Palestinians

TA1706160792 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Anyone Who Sells His Country Will Sell His Friends"]

[Excerpts] Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Israel to be praised by statesmen and to be honored by several universities as an expression of their gratitude for his service to the Jewish people during his last months in power—whether by opening the emigration gates wide for Soviet Jews or by renewing diplomatic relations with Israel. Gorbachev expressed his respect for the Israeli people on his arrival at the airport where he was very warmly welcomed by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi, who voiced his and the Israeli people's appreciation for Gorbachev's efforts for the Jewish people's freedom.

Gorbachev's visit to Israel and his remarks about the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian leadership have revealed the degree of his contempt for the fate of our people and showed how for many decades we were deceived by delusive friendships that were, in fact, one-sided, that is from the Arab and Palestinian side. Gorbachev was never committed either to the principles or the ideology advocated by the defunct Soviet Union under the Communist Party's leadership. The capitalist tendency dominating Gorbachev's thought became very apparent lately. He offered the Soviet Union for sale and completed its disintegration and the destruction of Marxist ideas in return for a handful of money from the capitalist supply and demand market.

The reason for the Palestinian people's disappointment at the old "friend" is that they were hoping that Gorbachev would alleviate their suffering and ease the hard conditions under which they are living. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that Gorbachev played an important role in all the crises that hit the Middle East in the past eight years. Soviet immigrants are being settled now on Palestinian lands. After those lands are planted by these immigrants, the original inhabitants will be expelled to Jordan, from where they will be dispersed all over the Arab world. All is this thanks to Gorbachev's policy. This is what you have done to the Palestinian people. If the Israelis are welcoming you today, our people will never welcome you because you have contributed to their suffering and pain.

You have sold us very cheaply and today you are criticizing our leadership and people, devoid of feeling and humanity. Israeli universities will honor you with three honorary doctorates and will confer on you high-ranking awards, but you deserve more than this from the Israeli people and leadership.

Your visit to Israel will end on Thursday, after which you will return to your country, but if you still have any conscience left it will call you into account for showing disrespect toward your friends.

Fatah's Bal'awi Meets French Official in Paris

LD1706185292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of FATAH Central Committee and PLO representative to Tunisia, met yesterday with Mr. (Mouzet), adviser to the French President Francois Mitterrand, in his office in the Elysee Palace in Paris.

During the meeting they reviewed the bilateral and multilateral aspects of the peace process and also the difficult circumstances of our people within the occupied territories. Brother Hakam Bal'awi explained to the French official the gravity of these circumstances which stem from the occupation and the oppressive and arbitrary practices of its authorities as well as the siege, starvation, the confiscation of land, the continuation of settlement policies, and state terrorism against our people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Bal'awi also explained the need for immediate and practical French and international action to protect our people from oppression and [word indistinct], and also the need to adopt a more effective European role in order to confront Israel's intransigence and oppression.

Mr. (Mouzet) praised the distinguished Palestinian performance at the peace negotiations and the strong Palestinian commitment to peace. He emphasized the importance of continuing Palestinian- French contacts, and also reiterated France's firm stand on the rights of the Palestinian people.

Algeria

Belkaid Rumored To Assume Education Minister Post

LD1606153592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Before reviewing the results of the rest of the subject [the leaking of the Baccalaureate examination papers] Algiers Radio has been told by a confidential source that Minister of Culture Aboubakr Belkaid might assume the post of Minister of Education, in place of Mr. Ali Benmohamed who resigned yesterday.

Djilai Liabes Appointed Acting Minister

LD1606194992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The scandal [of the leaking of Baccalaureat examination papers] poses more than one question: Who benefits from this operation and who is the target? Is it the student? This is very unlikely. Or is it aimed at setting the education system on a different course? Or is it the result of a conflict between various groups or political tendencies? These questions remain unanswered for the time being.

In the meantime, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali today appointed Mr. Djilali Liabes, minister of universities and scientific research, as acting education minister. The prime minister pointed out that he is giving himself more time for the necessary reflection and consultations before proposing the name of the new education minister to the chairman of the Higher State Council. Thus, the prime minister has decided to give priority to the preparation of the special Baccalaureat session.

As acting minister, Mr. Djilali Liabes will be in charge of running the affairs of the Education Ministry and supervising the preparations for the resit of the Baccalaureat examinations. Moreover, during this operation, all arrangements will have been made to enable the Education Ministry to benefit from the material and human means of other ministries, particularly the Defense Ministry and the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities. The prime minister will be following this operation very closely.

Opposition Parties Agree on Action Program

LD1706083592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] At this moment, a bloc of parties is moving to unite their stands into one platform. Involved are the seven parties that had reached an agreement for joint action. This report is by our correspondent, Nassira:

[Nassira] Leaders of the seven parties agreed yesterday, at the headquarters of the Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal, to a program for action for the national seminar expected to be held this July. The premise includes general ideas of an economic and political nature. The objective of the originators of these ideas is to safeguard national unity and to entrench stability and the democratic process.

In this context, the group of seven calls for the opening of dialogue with the various political forces in order to achieve national reconciliation and to regain the confidence of the people.

Regarding the issue of holding elections, the parties concerned revert to their demand for a timetable in which the current regime would specify a date for presidential, legislative, and local elections, in addition to changing the electoral law and appointing what the action premise called a government of national reconciliation in charge of administering the current transitional period.

At the economic level, signatories to the action program hold the view that the government's policy has proven inefficient at all levels on account of its dependency on foreign finance and its inability to mobilize action for pulling out of the crisis.

The group of seven proposes applying a policy of austerity in public spending and laying down a monetary policy that encourages production and productive investment.

We recall that the group of seven includes the following parties: The Movement for Democracy in Algeria, the Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal, the Social Democratic Party, Algerian Renewal, the Movement of Islamic Society, Ennahda Movement, and the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development.

Interior Minister Says Violence 'Under Control'

PM1606144192 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Jun 92 pp 1, 8

[Muhammad Amin al-Hani report: "Algerian Interior Minister: We Have Moved Onto the Offensive"]

[Excerpts] Algiers—Algerian Interior Minister General Larbi Belkheir has announced that Algerian security forces have now moved onto the offensive and that the armed groups are now in a defensive position. He admitted the desertion of a number of soldiers from the special forces, but he played down the effect of this on the present situation in Algeria.

He emphasized that the Algerian security authorities have managed to contain the operations of armed violence. He also revealed that the presidential election will be held before the end of the year if matters proceed well. The general commended the "national grouping" called for by Algerian [Higher State Council] Chairman Boudiaf. He said that he is opposed to the isolation policy, thus there is a place for moderate Islamists in that grouping. He revealed that he had challenged former Algerian President Bendjedid and accused him of being unable to differentiate between good and bad officials.

This came in an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT by Gen. Belkheir. [passage omitted]

On the security situation Gen. Belkheir said: "We have now managed to bring it under control generally. It took time because security forces were busy drawing up "mechanisms," that is the principal plans for preventing the resumption of 'mass violence' (street violence). That process has been completed, and the security authorities have now moved onto the offensive, whereas the armed groups have moved to the defensive."

He added: "With regard to that aspect, we are satisfied. We have ascertained that these groups are not operating under a unified organization." [passage omitted]

We have also ascertained that they are not in possession of advanced weapons smuggled from abroad, for example. Even the bombs are ineffective and made in a traditional and clumsy way.

But that does not mean, the general said, that attempts on the lives of members of the police and Army will cease.

We asked him about the truth of the reports that groups from the special forces have rebelled and sought shelter in the mountains surrounding "Akhdariyah" [as transliterated]. We also asked him about where recent violent clashes had taken place. He said: "True, a small number of soldiers did flee to that area, but a limit has now been put to their activities."

On the reports that some 200 soldiers had fled from a barracks in the city of Telagh, in the west of the country, and clashed with special units, he said: "All that happened was that three weapons were discovered to have been stolen from the barracks. That required a combing operation, which expanded when arms caches were discovered by chance."

After earnest entreaty the general broached the political aspect. The security authorities, he said, have performed and will perform their duty, but complete success can only be achieved if genuine political action is launched. So the ball is now in the politicians' court. [passage omitted]

Shots Fired in Belcourt; 2 Policemen Killed

LD1606133592 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1300 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Shots have been fired in Algiers between policemen and Islamists in the Belcourt district, which is one of the Islamists' strongholds in Algiers. Police reinforcements have been sent to the area, and at the beginning of the afternoon the streets were deserted and traders had lowered their shutters. Two policemen were reportedly killed in this shooting.

3 Policemen Injured By Unidentified Gunmen

LD1606224392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The Algerian News Agency has learned from the security sources of Algiers Province that three policemen were injured, one of them critically, late this morning by gunshots from unidentified persons at Belcourt district at Nacera Nounou Belouazdad intersection.

According to available information to the security authorities the policement were on patrol in the district when they were suddenly confronted by an unidentifed group of armed persons the number of whom is unknown. The security force was reinforced by elements from the National Gendarmerie who cordoned off the district and its surrounds.

Egypt

Extremists Planning To Kill 'Public Personalities'

NC1806055692 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Report by Mahmud al-Hadari]

[Excerpt] AL-AHALI has learned that the ongoing investigations into the assassination of thinker Dr. Faraj Fudah revealed that the al-Jihad Organization and extremist groups have begun implementing a broad assassination plan against several public personalities, including former and current ministers, thinkers, and party leaders.

AL-AHALI also learned that state security and Cairo's security directorate have information that a team of extremist groups has moved to Cairo from Bani Suwayf, Asyut, al-Minya, and al-Fayyum. The security organizations don't yet know the purpose of this new move.

Security reports say the terrorist groups exploited the security organizations' preoccupation with extremism in these areas and planned Dr. Faraj Fudah's assassination. Security bodies have information about terrorists' assassination plans against personalities, including the republic's mufti. The security organizations knew of this plan six months ago when they arrested several extremists in Asyut and al-Minya. [passage omitted]

Al-Jihad 'Confrontation' Predicted

NC1806065992 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 11 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Khalid Dawud, 'Isam Miliji, and Murid Subhi]

[Excerpts] As hundreds offered prayers for the rest of assassinated writer Faraj Fudah's soul at the 'Umar Makram mosque in al-Tahrir square, security forces launched a massive hunt for an escaped assassin, identified as Ashraf Sayyid Muhammad. The other killer, 'Abd-al-Shafi Ramadan, was apprehended shortly after the attack on Fudah's life Monday evening. Security sources said 23 suspects were rounded up. [passage omitted]

Some of the marchers in the funeral shouted slogans for national unity and carried placards denouncing terrorism as well as blood-stained pictures of Faraj Fudah.

As soon as Fudah's coffin was brought out of the mosque, young men and women began shouting "no to terrorism." Some of them tried to attack Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, an Islamic writer who came to take part in the funeral. He was quickly led away by police.

A high security official predicted an "extremely violent confrontation" with the underground al-Jihad Organization, blamed for Fudah's assassination. The same organization was accused of killing President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981 and Parliament Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub in 1990 as well as attempts on the lives of former Interior Ministers Hasan Abu-Basha, and Nabawi Isma'il, and journalist Makram Muhammad Ahmad.

The official said security will be tightened around public figures, particularly writers who oppose terrorism, and whose names may be on al-Jihad's list.

"The coming confrontation will be decisive because we cannot allow those (terrorists) to carry out their plans at will," the official said. "Time has proved that dialogue is useless with those who do not understand dialogue."

Other sources said security authorities at all airports and harbors are watching out for the arrival of al-Jihad members who may have received military training in Afghanistan. All persons arriving from southern and eastern Asia will be carefully screened.

The sources said a list of persons who travelled to Afghanistan is not available because most of them did not travel directly but via other countries. Most of them are doctors who travelled to Afghanistan to provide the Mojahedin with medical treatment, the sources said. Their number stands around 300.

Investigation has shown that Fudah's assassination was mastered from behind bars by Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, Chief of al-Jihad's military wing, who is spending time in jail for involvement in the killing of Rif'at al-Mahjub.

The investigation also showed that al-Jihad has prepared a hit list, including several public figures, mainly writers who oppose extremism and advocate moderation. [passage omitted]

Security authorities also stepped up their vigilance in the provinces of Upper Egypt, fearing a possible outbreak of violence there.

'Islamic Group' Makes Threats

NC1806063692 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 15 Jun 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Stop Press—Assassination Lists"]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that prominent personalities, whose names appear in five lists, have received threats from the so-called "Islamic Group." The names of some of these figures came up in various prosecution interrogations of group members and of al-Jihad Organization members.

The first list includes several state figures, including Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and former Interior Ministers Zaki Badr, Ahmad Rushdi, Hasan Abu-Basha, and al-Nabawi Isma'il. The list also includes Mustafa Kamil, former head of the State Security Investigation Department; Hamid Jawdah, head of the State Security Department in Bani Suwayf; and several security chiefs, including 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hilali, based in al-Fayyum; and Nabil 'Ibadah, of Asyut.

The second list includes several journalists who write about extremism, including Sa'id Sunbul, Anis Mansur, Makram Muhammad Ahmad, Samir Rajab, and the assassinated Dr. Faraj Fudah. The list also includes several junior journalists and caricaturists. Thinker Fu'ad Zakariyah and Counselor Sa'id al-'Ashmawi also figure.

The third list includes artists Farid Shawqi, 'Adil Imam, Yusra, Liblibah, Layla 'Ulwi, and Nur al-Sharif and his wife Pusi, as well as dancers Fifi 'Abduh, Sahar Hamdi, 'Azzah Sharif, and Najwa Fu'ad.

The fourth list includes several plastic surgeons, gynecologists, obstetricians, and Dr. Hashim Fu'ad, president of the al-Jazirah Sporting Club and a professor, lecturing in the field of ear, nose, and throat medicine.

The fifth list includes several Islamic and Christian clergymen and figures from al-Azhar, in addition to Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi.

Records about the extremist groups show two types of list: One involves the "Islamic Jihad" and includes politicians, officers, journalists, and thinkers as targets. It almost disregards the rest of society. The second is that of the "Islamic Group" and it has two dimensions: The first is political, targeting the state, journalistic, and partisan figures in Egypt, while the second is social, under which the group plans to burn down liquor stores and night clubs and fight artists.

But the most dangerous list is that of Dr. Majdi al-Safti, the mufti of the "Survivors From Hell" group, stating that all members of society, group members and members of other Islamic groups excepted, must be assassinated and physically liquidated.

Tanker Truck, Bus Collide Near Libyan Border

NC1706165892 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 17 (AFP) - Forty-eight people, including 42 soldiers, were killed and 15 injured Wednesday when a tanker truck collided head-on with a bus near the Mediterranean port of Marsa Matruh, an army spokesman said.

The tanker ran into the bus transporting Egyptian troops on the al-Sallum road near the Libyan border, the spokesman said.

Marsa Matruh is home to a key Egyptian military base in the border region with Libya.

Embassy in Belgrade Receives Telephone Threats

NC1806045592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Jun (MENA)—The Egyptian Embassy and a number of its technical departments in Belgrade received telephone threats from unidentified extremists, due to Egyptian support for Bosnia-Hercegovina's territorial integrity. Egypt calls for guaranteeing security and peace for the Bosnian people. It rejects and denounces the continued Serbian bombardment of the republic, particularly Sarajevo, and the killing and displacement of Muslims there.

Charge d'Affaires Taysir Husayn informed Belgrade authorities of the threats. The authorities have taken the necessary measures to protect the embassy.

Meanwhile, some foreign correspondents also received threats for their covering Serbian attacks against Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Libya

Daily Sees Arab 'Fragmentation, Dismemberment'

LD1706190692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Jun (JANA)—Under the title "Thinking With the Mentality of the Libyan Nation," a front-page article in the daily AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR published today analyzed the state of fragmentation and dismemberment that the Arabs have reached.

The author of the article mocked the Arab state of affairs by saying that when the Arabs piled up in their countries and put on the trappings of the imported state and believed the lie of state sovereignty and declared that they were nations and not one nation, Arabism became an old alphabet, as contemporary poet Nizar Qabbani said.

The AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR article went on to criticize the Arab state of affairs and the inability to face up to the colonial trends, saying: "And because the Arabs were nations and did not prove even once that they were one nation as we were wishing—we who speak the old alphabet—they did not even once live the unity of the dream, nor the unity of hope, nor the unity of destiny. They did not even give anything to solidarity. They are nations, but destiny has them speaking one language."

The paper stressed, through its own perception of the Arab living reality, that "the Arabs are nations and not one nation. Each Arab nation has its own color and interests, its own flag, anthem, and radio. Even the language spoken by those nations is not evidence of their single origin as the Arabs have proved to us that the Chinese can speak Arabic and can join whichever of the nations are geographically located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf. On top of all that, the events, the sufferings, and even the happiness were never at any time a unifying factor to the Arabs, for each Arab nation has its own sorrow, pain, and joy that have no relation to the sorrow, joy, and pain of the other Arab nations. Therefore, these nations do not come to the help of each other during calamities, and all the stories we used to read about such mutual assistance and help were merely an illusion from the illusions of the old alphabet, which we have discovered none of the Arab nations are using today.

The author cited some examples, saying imagine that we used to learn that Arabs constitute one nation and that Lebanon's pain would be felt by the whole Arab body. Rather, we went further and imagined that if any citizen in any part of the Arab land suffers a cold, the whole homeland will suffer a cold. Lebanon, however, wept, but the Arabs laughed; Palestine was stolen, and the Arabs rewarded the thief; the Libyans were prevented from going on the pilgrimage, but all the Arabs went on pilgrimage, and there are a thousand such examples.

The author of the article added: Let the Arab nations savor the multiplicity of their languages, vocabulary, and novels. And let a thousand anthems resound in their sky, in each one of them every nation of the Arab nations can praise its birth in song. Even the Libyans should sing about their birth, as the Laylas of the Arabs are not more beautiful than the Layla of the Libyans: She, like the Laylas of the Arabs, deserves to be the subject of a song.

The author added: "The Libyans constitute a Libyan nation like the other nations spread in this part of the world situated between the ocean and the gulf. Thus, the Libyan nation will think with its mentality and look after its interests, and it will have its joy, color, dream, and pain, which differ from the joy, color, dream, and pain of the rest of these nations which used to constitute "an Arab nation."

The author concluded his analysis by saying: "We as a nation (?without doubt) have our 'Laylas' whose praise we want to sing, for we are not less important than the other Arab nations, which have been praising their birth in song [words indistinct].

Morocco

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Arrives for Talks With King

JN1606095192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, 16 Jun (INA)—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Moroccan King Hassan II, arrived here last night.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy will hold talks with the Moroccan monarch on bilateral ties, developments in the Arab region, and dangers posed to the Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy had earlier visited Algeria on a similar mission.

Comments on Talks in Rabat

LD1706214692 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Statement by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Rabat on 17 June—recorded]

[Text] I was honored to meet His Majesty King Hassan II. I conveyed to His Majesty a verbal message from his brother President Saddam Husayn.

The message included fraternal bilateral relations; explanations on the circumstances of the siege from which the people of Iraq suffer; and the required Arab and international efforts to lift that siege after many of the justifications that were used to impose it on Iraq have been removed.

I also explained to His Majesty the progress achieved so far in implementing the UN Security Council resolutions. In spite of the injustice of these resolutions toward Iraq, Iraq, based on its responsible feelings, has implemented many of the commitments that were imposed on it.

However, so far the Security Council has not advanced a single step toward lifting the comprehensive siege imposed on our country and our people. This requires an Arab and international effort to lift the injustice to the Iraqi people.

The Moroccan stance toward this issue is well known, and the stance of His Majesty is well known. His Majesty has always called for lifting the siege. Morocco as a member of the Security Council always calls for that.

We hope these efforts will continue, and we hope the Arab and international efforts will be united in that direction.

Meets With King; Departs 17 Jun

LD1806032292 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, who was flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz at the Royal Palace, in Rabat, at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Iraqi Ambassador to Morocco Fadil 'Abd al-Ghafur Shahir.

[Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic at 2300 GMT on 17 June adds: "Iraqi envoy Tariq 'Aziz left Rabat tonight. He announced in a statement before boarding the plane that he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Hassan II from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and on efforts to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq."]

Tunisia

Authorities May Dissolve League of Human Rights

LD1406015892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Tunisia's League of Human Rights is threatened with dissolution if it does not comply with the law. League Chairman Moncef Marzouki said that the Tunisian authorities could dissolve the League at midnight tonight [2300 GMT, 13 Jun] for continuing to refuse to operate within the law. Marzouki affirmed that the refusal is not meant to signify rebellion or muscle-flexing on the League's part but to signify that a stand has been taken to defend its existence and independence. He witnessed the League being registered among those societies which are incompatible with the Constitution. The Tunisian interior minister informed the League in May of a decision to place it on the list of societies which are of a general nature, a matter which its officials reject and consider illegal.

Prime Minister, Pakistani Envoy View Cooperation

LD1806071992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui received Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the Pakistani minister of state for economic affairs, in the government palace in La Casbah this afternoon. After the meeting, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that he conveyed a message to the prime minister from his Pakistani counterpart. He pointed out that the talks focused on the prospects of Tunisian-Pakistani cooperation in various fields, particularly the economic and commercial fields.

Western Sahara

Polisario, UN Envoys End 'Helpful' Talks

AU1206160792 Paris AFP in English 1427 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Geneva, June 12 (AFP) — The U.N. special envoy on the Western Sahara ended a "helpful and constructive" meeting here Friday [12 June] with a team from the Polisario Front guerrilla movement in the territory, a U.N. statement said.

The front has been fighting since 1975 for control of the former Spanish territory, which was annexed by Morocco.

Sahabzada Yakub Khan talked for two days with a delegation headed by Bashir Mustafa Sayed, reviewing the front's concerns about U.N. plans to hold a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara, the statement said. Sayed said he had presented the U.N. representative with a

written statement of the guarantees Polisario will give Morocco should the front win the referendum.

On Sunday, Yakub Khan goes to Rabat for talks with Moroccan King Hassan II. He will then visit Tindouf, site of the main Polisario refugee camp in southern Algeria, to meet the Polisario leadership.

The United Nations has called on each party to the desert war to provide the other with guarantees, whether the outcome is integration of the Western Sahara with Morocco or not, Polisario team member Emhamed Ould Khaddad [name as received] told AFP. Three-way peace talks will resume in New York in the third week of June, he added.

Ould Khaddad said it might be "possible" to overcome the stumbling-block that has stalled the referendum, on the number of people eligible to vote. The poll was to have been held at the beginning of the year.

Polisario says that the electoral register should be based on a census carried out by the Spanish in 1974 before they left, but Morocco, which has sent many settlers, wants a much larger list. The guerrilla movement would accept an increase of the order of up to 10 percent, Ould Khaddad said.

Last month, U.N. representative Butrus Butrus-Ghali set a three-month deadline for getting out of the impasse, warning that if a referendum leading to a peaceful settlement of the conflict failed to take place, the council might try a different approach.

Yakub Khan, a former Pakistani foreign minister, had a first round of talks with King Hassan in April, a month after being named to his new job. About 500 U.N. observers have been stationed in the desert territory since last September to monitor a ceasefire between Polisario guerrillas and Moroccan troops.

The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic unilaterally proclaimed by Polisario in 1976 has been recognised by almost 70 countries.

Kuwait

Petroleum Minister Denies Ordering Higher Output

LD1706105992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0928 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Jun (KUNA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamud al-Ruqba has denied giving instructions to officials in the Kuwait Oil Company to increase oil output to 2 million barrels per day, regardless of the harmful consequences (which might result from such a decision).

In an exclusive interview with AL-WATAN, published today, Minister al-Ruqba challenges Western newspapers to produce one single piece of evidence to support their reports to the effect that he has ignored the opinions of oil experts, and that he is risking the destruction of Kuwait's oil reserves with the policy of maximum production.

Dr. al-Ruqba adds that the mixture of oil and water in some Kuwaiti wells is not a new phenomenon but that it existed prior to the (Iraqi) invasion. He also refers to reports that the Kuwait Oil Company has bought more units to separate water and salts from oil in order to deal with this phenomenon, saying that these units are primarily installed on the gathering stations. He adds that there are around seven of these stations out of the 26 which were operating prior to the (Iraqi) invasion.

He further says that it is normal for a well to contain a certain proportion of water, as this phenomenon exists in all the countries of the world. He points out that in some other countries the proportion of water in the wells reaches 70 percent—which is the case in some of the wells sunk by the Kuwait Company for Oil Explorations in Australia—and that the proportion of water in Kuwait is (only) 5 percent.

Dr. al-Ruqbah also stresses the need not to be hasty in passing judgments and not to jump to premature conclusions with regard to the oil deposits, adding that if any problems emerge and pose a threat to the state of the (oil) reserves, he will be the first person to order that production operations be halted.

Leaves for U.S. Visit 13 June

LD1706163792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 13 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamud al-Ruqba predicted today that the price of oil will increase in the last quarter of this year. On leaving for the United States today, he told KUNA that that visit is at the official invitation of the U.S. Government. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that there is a proposal to form a joint oil committee to monitor oil affairs and exchange views about the future of oil. He pointed out that the issue is being studied.

Dr. al-Ruqba expressed his belief that imposing a carbon tax on oil exports will primarily affect the developing countries, and would increase the poverty in those countries. He said: There is disagreement among the European countries on this issue, and I think that the issue might not see the light at the Earth Summit. He said that OPEC would adopt a certain stance if a resolution was adopted to impose a carbon tax. He pointed out that the oil-producing countries would be affected by such a tax, but that the developing countries would be more affected by it. [passage omitted]

Four Indians, Briton Killed in Ammunition Explosion

BK1706034692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] In Kuwait, four Indians and a British national were killed in an explosion on Monday when they were clearing ammunition dumps left by the Iraqi troops last year. The Indians killed in the mishap are: Mr. Arumugam of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Amar Singh Rathore of Rajasthan, and Mr. Nagar Singh and Mr. Hansraj Singh of Punjab, who were employed in a private firm. Our Gulf correspondent reports that the Indian Embassy has requested the Kuwaiti Government to conduct an inquiry into the incident and arrange for appropriate compensation to the families of the victims.

Niger Envoy Brings Message for Prime Minister

LD1606215692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1830 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Niger Republic Bazoum Mohamed, arrived in the country at 6:30 this evening, carrying a message to His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, from His Excellency the Premier of the Republic of Niger Amadou Cheiffou. He was received at Kuwait International Airport by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Niger to the State of Kuwait.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Receives Kazakhstan's Prime Minister

JN1606142992 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko at his office at [name indistinct] palace today. The meeting was attended by Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals; the delegation accompanying the guest minister; and the Russian ambassador to the sultanate.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation in the various economic and trade

fields in addition to the various (?oil) domains in order to strengthen and improve cooperation relations between the sultanate and Kazakhstan in the service of the interests of the two friendly peoples.

They also exchanged views on a number of current international and regional issues.

Official Talks Held With Kazakhstan

JN1706144592 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Official talks between Oman and Kazakhstan were held at Qasr al-Bustan Hotel this morning. The Omani side was headed by Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs. The Kazakh side was headed by Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko.

They discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation in the various economic, trade, and oil fields. They also discussed ways to bolster cooperation to strengthen cooperation relations between Oman and Kazakhstan.

The meeting was attended by Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals; the Russian ambassador in Oman; the delegation accompanying the guest minister; and a number of officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, petroleum and minerals, and finance.

Saudi Arabia

Baghdad Report on Banning Ulema From Hajj Denied

LD1706223692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2020 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, 17 Jun (SPA)—An authorized source has denied a Baghdad radio report today, citing a Sudanese newspaper, to the effect that the Saudi authorities have prevented a number of ulema and citizens in Saudi Arabia from performing the pilgrimage this year. He said "this report is totally fabricated and it is not strange for it to come from quarters that are hateful, fallacious, tendentious, and totally insignificant."

'No Need' for Iranian Pilgrims To Feed Poor

LD1706221292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah 17 Jun (SPA)—With reference to what Tehran radio broadcast today about the Iranian hajj delegation having fed hundreds of poor families in Mecca, Medina, and the other shrines, an authoritative source told SPA: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, proceeding from its paramount concern to care for all matters dealing with the comfort of all guests of God's Holy Mosque and to provide them with the necessary care during their stay in the land of the Kingdom during this year's pilgrimage as is customary every year, has secured hundreds of fixed and mobile centers of provisions to distribute thousand of tons of foodstuffs and chilled water to tens of thousands of pilgrims in both Holy Mecca and Holy Medina as well as at other holy shrines. Hence there was no need for what Tehran radio reported in this respect.

Food Aid for Bosnian Refugees Arrives in Croatia

LD1706184492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The first consignment of food and relief material, ordered by [King Fahd] the custodian of the two holy mosques to be sent to Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, has arrived. It consists of 480 tonnes of various foodstuffs and children's food.

Beginning today, these will be distributed among Muslim refugees presently living in several camps and make-shift places in the neighboring Croatian republic. This will be followed by the arrival of the remaining quantities. When the fighting inside Bosnia-Hercegovina stops, more relief supplies will be sent to those who are still in Bosnia-Hercegovina itself.

Private Sector To Assist Industrial Development

LD1306154592 Rabat MAP in English 1251 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Manama, June 13 (MAP)—Saudi Arabia is planning to resort to national and foreign private sector to develop and launch its industry and decrease the country's economic dependence by 1995.

Out of the USD [U.S. dollars] 11 billions earmarked by the five-year-plan (1990-95) to set up new industrial units, USD 7.6 billion will be provided by the private sector, said a report by Saudi Commercial Bank.

Saudi Arabia today boasts about 2,225 industrial enterprises against 460 in 1976 while 360 projects for the creation of joint ventures are underway with an overall USD 15 billion capital.

Yemen

Premier's Brother Killed; Security Meeting Held

JN1706133692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas chaired an expanded meeting for the security committee, officials of security organs and the general prosecutors office, and directors of the districts of the Hadramawt Governorate, this morning at al-Mukalla.

The prime minister said he was pleased to meet with security organs, and with protecting legitimacy in the governorate. He noted that the issue of security has become a pivotal one on which development, construction, and reform plans are based. He explained that achieving Yemeni reunification, exercising democracy,

extracting the oil wealth, and tackling political and social issues left behind by the ages of the imamate and colonialism and the age of partition prompted hostile forces to launch their barbaric campaigns with the aim of shaking the people's confidence in the leadership and creating a state of instability in the homeland.

The prime minister said that Yemen witnessed such conspiracies whenever it achieved any great accomplishment, and that what it is facing today is only a small part of those conspiracies with which the people of Yemen have become familiar throughout its modern history. He noted that those conspiracies have not prevented the Yemeni people from pursuing their future development, construction, and prosperity plans.

The prime minister hailed the good results that have been achieved in implementing the security plan in a number of governorates; particularly in the governorate of [place-name indistinct]. He urged security organs to become more vigilant, and to establish mutual confidence with the citizens in order to catch the criminals and hand them over to justice to be tried.

He said that security is not the security of the leadership or security of particular people to the exclusion of others. He said security is for all Yemen. Hence, everyone must help the security organs in order to carry out the security plan in all governorates.

He announced that next year the Governorate of Hadramawt will witness the beginning of oil exports from al-Matinah valley through a pipeline that stretches to the city of Kafr. He said that work has begun on this project by the Contractors Union Company.

Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani, governor of Hadramawt, spoke [words indistinct]. He conveyed the condolences of the sons of the governorate to the prime minister on the death of his brother, Hashim Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who was attacked during the blessed 'Id al-Adha. He noted that this kind of criminal action and other actions constitute a threat to the security and stability of Yemen. Hence, all officials and citizens are required to stand side by side to prevent such crimes. He called on the security organs in the governorate to be responsible, and to find the perpetrators in all cases that involve violations of security and stability and to bring them to justice.

During the meeting, they also discussed a report on the implementation of the security plan in the governorate, its future approaches, and problems that face it.

Saddam Husayn Address on Cooperative Movement

JN1706155992 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1430 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun, INA—Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has chaired a meeting attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, RCC member and prime minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office; and Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih.

The meeting was devoted to discussing the cooperative movement in the country and ways of developing it as a mass movement based on the principle of cooperation between individuals and groups to serve the objectives of the socialist society and implement part of its principles on the basis of free enterprise by citizens.

The meeting was attended by Sa'dallah 'Atiyah Husayn, chairman of the General Federation for Cooperation, and a number of officials of the federation.

As part of his valuable comments on the issue, the leader president said: One cannot possibly say that there is only one way to solve any given problem. There is always a second way that one might miss at the very moment he is faced with that particular problem.

His excellency added: We should not follow the road that has already been trodden, because this road is always easy and does not allow room for private efforts when we take it. One should instead follow the untrodden path which embodies creativity and heralds a new level of thinking and more developed performance.

The leader president said: Whenever faith increases in society, the number of people who do not make profit at the expense of humanitarian principles and the values established by God Almighty also increases.

He added: Anyone who loses the state and society—even though he might achieve profit at a certain stage—will lose the future. The private sector in general, and trade activity in particular have lost the society. Although some have made money, they have lost their social status.

The leader president added: Our approach is to create love between people. Love can never be created except when one obtains rights compatible with the duties one performs.

Following is the text of the leader president's speech:

The leader president asked Sa'dallah 'Atiyah to brief him on the current status of cooperation, its obstacles, and the solutions he proposes. After listening to the briefing, the leader president said: The problem with state and government agencies in general, especially in Third World countries, is that those in the higher power structure do not look for new ways so as not to burden those who are in the lower power structure with their decisions. For, as long as those in the higher power structure can make decisions, they make them the easiest way possible, thinking that this is part of the authority given to them. But they do not consider the consequences of their decisions, which are made without great mental effort. I say that those people do not consider the consequences of their decisions on those who are in the lower power structure or on those who are asked to implement these decisions, including citizens if the matter concerns them.

One cannot possibly argue that there is only one way to resolve any given problem. There is always a second way that one might miss at the moment he is faced with that particular problem. One should, especially those in the higher power structure, think about the people in the lower power structure when they make any decision so as not to burden them. They should also look for the best method when they are confused or when they have several options.

In a comment he made about the Car Repair Society, the leader president asked: Has this society succeeded? Where do you get the workers? If the workers are good, then why do they not open their own private shops, instead of working with the cooperatives?

Sa'd Atiyah answered that those people did not find good opportunities in private ventures because they do not have enough money to open private shops. The leader president then said: So you polarize people who [words indistinct], or, in other words, people who want to work for you to be able to stand on their own two feet, and after they develop feathers and two wings, as they say, they fly away and start their own businesses. Is this not so?

Sa'd Atiyah answered: Yes. The leader president said: This is good, but there are others who work in government offices, perhaps they can help you after office hours, such as engineers and [words indistinct].

His excellency was asked: Have you not benefited from those through contracts for example. In other words, one of them would hold a contract to work for you for four hours after office hours only. When the head of the federation for cooperation said that this had not been done, his excellency said: If you have not done this, then consider such a formula. Have you contracted people to work for a number of hours? For example, to work for three hours, or to conclude a contract with a woman to work for three hours or more, depending on the nature of the work, and then hand over her work to another woman for four more hours in order to complete the required hours of work. Have you considered this [word indistinct]. Many women have a lot of spare time after they finish their housework because they do not have small children to preoccupy them. Moreover, their husbands would be at work at that time. In addition to [words indistinct] families are in need. They, however, cannot conclude contracts with you to work seven or eight hours because that would have adverse effects on

their duties at home. They have plenty of time during the day; for instance from 1600 to 2000. During these four hours, women, for example, may not have duties at home. Instead of having no work, they would perhaps want to occupy themselves by working for you. Men might also like to work after official office hours. They could make contracts with you to work three hours or more. Have you considered such a formula?

A short while ago, we said that we should not follow the road that has already been trodden, because this road is always easy since others have already followed it. Moreover, the already trodden road does not allow room for private efforts when we make them. This is because it has already been followed. We should instead follow the untrodden paths which embody creativity and herald a new level of thinking and more developed performance. This is not our issue. Yet, we pause at these issues to derive a better knowledge of the future, one that differs from the already-made way of thinking.

Let us consider the second point you have raised. The issue of land. It is that the state allocates land for you which you divide then distribute. I say that this is not a cooperative effort. Any state employee can do this. This is similar to telling the subdistrict administrative officer or the district administrative officer to take pieces of land and divide them 250 square meter plots, after allocating areas for services and streets to distribute the remaining pieces. He can do so very easily by applying the correct principles. He might be unfair in doing so even if there was a supervisor; a governor or other organs, to check the distribution process.

Hence, the subject is this way: Let us assume that the governor tells you that we can distribute the land, then i would like to ask: What are you going to do in the field of cooperative housing.

In the period before al-Qadisiyah [the Iraq-Iran war] I used to think that the Iraqi farmer anywhere; whether in the marshland, on an island, in the countryside, or near the rivers, should have two things; a toilet and sanitary facilities. This is because I consider sanitary facilities to be a human necessity, rather than carrying a jug of water for washing after discharging bodily waste in the open or in a cattle barn. It is a human necessity and not only a cleanliness requisite to have ordinary sanitary facilities in which water is available. My thoughts were focussing on government help only in this field; to help them in building sanitary facilities. When the farmer finds that he has a toilet and sanitary facilities in normal and reasonable shape, then he will surely build a house nearby in normal and reasonable shape too.

I began to try the cheapest prices for construction of such requirements. Once I tried for this building to have a roof of mat and sticks [word indistinct] another was of concrete, and a third was of bamboo and clay or constructed using bricks without iron reinforcements, or what is called arches. All these thoughts were for achieving the purpose with the cheapest prices.

Therefore, you too have to think. In this period, we also tried to construct a building similar to the old al-Damah building which is a house of mud with an arched roof of mats. The Iraqis used to build them with a pitched roof curved on both sides from a central ridge pole so rain would not accumulate on it, and to prevent water from drizzling on the family. We tried this with mats which we have in addition to some kinds of [word indistinct] which we also have and which are made of fermented mud that is left for some time so that its components interact [words indistinct] some hay to increase the strength of these components. We introduced two changes in this method, [words indistinct] under the mud, which is a plastic material and put a plastic material on the mud for beautification [word indistinct] very beautiful shape.

I thought about this type of building. We should encourage people, particularly in the rural areas, to build this type of house. This type of house is nice from the inside and outside. It is even more beautiful than the house with an al-'Akkadah [support] roof.

I believe that you should think of these matters in house-building so that the costs will be inexpensive. People must not take risks in building. Some people have become bored with al-Damah. Al-Damah to some people is like dates. Do you know who eat dates now? They are those who ate dates 10, 20, or 30 years ago. They eat dates now after tasting the Nestle powdered milk and getting fed up with it. Those people eat dates now, because eating dates is no longer a sign of inferiority. In the past, people were angry when they were served dates, because they lived on bread and dates all the time. So, they began to search for other things such as the children's Nestle and chocolate.

If we say to him now: Take this al-Damah from al-Jamlun [the pitched roof], he would say: Should I go back to al-Damah again? He would refuse to build with al-Damah. However, if you build in this way, the situation will be different. You can cooperate with the Industry Ministry. God willing, when the petrochemical factories begin production, we can make available the necessary materials. We can make the roof from a green plastic material and we can build a simple waterproof ceiling. In addition, simple insulating material can be used. You can also use clay. I tried clay, and it lasted a long time, not like some say that it does not last long. You can also (?mix) it with the insulating material or use plaster of Paris instead of clay as they used to do in the past. So if we use plaster of Paris and cover it with a plastic material, it will be very beautiful.

When we build such a house in a certain place with all the necessary amenities such as a bathroom, kitchen, and sanitary facilities, and the electrical wiring has been carried in a correct manner, the house instead of being [word indistinct] preventing fire or any other case. This will be cheap and safe and maybe will cost 10,000 or 15,000 dinars. This house will be a complete one and can accommodate an entire family. When it is sold at 10,000,

15,000, or 16,000 and in installments, all the people who want to get married will purchase it in addition to the people who got fed up with brick and cement houses and have spent a long time living in such houses and even were born in them. Such people look for these houses. However, those living in houses of this type, if they are immature and not very cultured will say that they do not want such houses because they do not want to see these wood boards since they have seen them before. Therefore, one must think about other things.

As children in Tikrit, we used to see al-'Akkadah houses, houses built with plaster of Paris and bamboo and this type of house used to last for some 50 years. You can study this with construction engineers and discuss how one can build houses such as houses on arches built from plaster of Paris and roofed with bamboo. Thus, you can build small and beautiful houses that can accomodate a large number of people and offer them to those who want such houses. But if your role is confined to the allocation of parcels of land and selling them, I tell you that some departments in the state are more capable than you with respect to the question of selling land and [word indistinct] the application of the bases we gave you.

We first give priority to the martyrs' families. Then come those who have medals of valor in al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles. This is to reward efforts and so that the defeated are not treated in the same manner as the hero in a country which has been exposed to perils. There are people who sacrificed their lives and others who were ready to sacrifice theirs but God had spared their lives. For this reason, they should be set apart from others.

One can refer to these bases at the various state departments where everything is accounted for. When someone complains to Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, or to Comrade Muhamad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, or to any official and says that in spite of the fact that he was awarded medals he was not given a piece of land while this or that person who deserted military service during al-Qadisiyah or who showed cowardice in the Mother of Battles has received a piece of land, we investigate such complaints. If the complaint is lodged with the President's Office, I will immediately send a committee to the district to investigate how much truth is in the citizen's complaint.

Regarding this issue, the government is more capable of distributing the land than you are. Therefore, you should look for another method.

Let us go back to the issue of eggs. I say that what is important in the issue of eggs is that Iraqi production should meet the needs of the citizens and should also be capable of exports. This is what should take place.

With regard to the prime minister's proposal that Iraq's future lies in cooperation, the leader president said: (?No), we do not say that Iraq's future lies in everything to which we adhere. As if to say that Iraq's future lies in cooperation, in the Workers' Federation, in the Peasants' Federation, or in the Army. The activities have a social and socialist objective that is harmonious with our course. These activities reinforce other activities and we should support them. [words indistinct]

The cooperation law does not make the state law binding for them except in [word indistinct] circumstances. And I signed the cooperation law yesterday. Leave them alone, and do not intervene in their detailed (?views). Keep preoccupied with government affairs.

We established the General Federation for Cooperation to help us, not to turn it into a burden on our shoulders. [words indistinct] Leave the General Federation for Cooperation to work alone. Your work is in the government only; you have to run the affairs of the ministries and government organs. Leave the federation alone to run its own affairs. Give it support (?from a far distance). If something goes wrong in the federation, review the matter in the cabinet, but without giving orders—to expand it here and not to expand it there. Leave them alone and give them a free hand. This is a mass activity. [words indistinct] Their salaries are from the federation, so it is up to them to expand or not expand, to fail or not. We hope they succeed. We should only give them advice. Under certain difficult circumstances we can intervene and make a decision. However, if we intervene in their daily life and order them to do this or that, it will become a government organ, and when it turns into a government organ it will fail. The idea behind forming a General Federation for Cooperation is to keep it far away from the government orders, because government orders are always [words indistinct]. In this case, we would not give it a free hand. We, in the past, issued them an order in the form of specific guidance; and now we have changed this guidance into a law, which we signed yesterday.

We will see how they work and we will advise them. Even when we meet with them we do not say to them do so and so except asking them to double the cooperative societies. He said that it is important to double the cooperative societies and we will support them. Other than this, we say to them study how to do this thing because it is their idea. When the cooperative turns into a state organ, it becomes worthless. I want the membres of the cooperative to help the state after it has withdrawn itself from the narrow rivers. The state is a big vessel [word indistinct] the tributaries of rivers, when it sails it closes the small river by its movement, therefore, we withdrew ourselves from the cooperative movement. Now if we come to ask them to change into a mere organ [word indistinct] we will obstruct their work. But we should only support them and monitor their behavior and interfere after talk with them and understand their viewpoint.

I would have liked for them to be separate from government organs and for their affairs not to be discussed by government organs. To implement this, we have introduced a simple formula that enables the state to interfere after discussing with them [word indistinct] something

that deserves discussing. As for financial auditing, there is the finance auditing bureau that supervises and audit things for everyone.

Now, after it has become clear that the cooperatives enjoy state support and that the cooperatives are operating in accordance with the planned policy for the society's movement in general and under the supervision of the revolution command, we are satisfied with you (talk directed to those engaged in the cooperative movement) but this satisfaction does not relieve you of constant criticism whenever there is a need.

When we say that the cooperative activity should be free this does not mean the same freedom is needed by the private sector because the private sector uses its freedom to make profits regardless of the danger to the social objectives, except for a few people who make a balance between satisfying God and the profit margin.

As much as faith increases in society, the number of people who do not make profit at the expense of humanitarian principles and the values established by God Almighty also increases. What is meant by your freedom is that our supervision is mainly restricted to the ultimate [word indistinct] on your activity in accordance with the objectives it realizes—the objectives that are in harmony with the revolution's principles.

We should not say only that your activity is a social one because it should be an economic concept; meaning that the economic dimensions should be taken into consideration by your activity. If you do not operate economically in the right direction, this means that your organ has changed into a consumer organ that depends on the state's ability and potential while we want it to be an organ that is active in the economic field to help the general state policy which is supervised by our central organs as is known.

When you are are inclined to make profits at the expense of a social objective, the state will interfere and tell you that your inclination conflicts with the general approach. When you are inclined to attain a social objective but in the process you squander funds, the state will also step in and tell you that you are squandering money. The state will not interfere in the details but will tell you that with the financial support you got from the state you did not attain the social objective and you were not successful in the economic activity. Therefore, the state will stop providing you with such assistance and the state wants to suspend these activities. When the state suspends its support, you will fall. But since we are all collectively responsible for the attainment of social and economic goals the right thing to do is that we will not resort to such a rude method. We will resort to dialogue to redress the course. This means we will not pursue a wrong course.

Although there are some deviations in the private sector's activities—when I speak about the private sector's activities, I do not mean all the private sector but those to whom the descrition fits—the state will continue to encourage the private sector's activities. However, there are some whose services to society are in line with the assistance they are given while there are others who in their activities do not take into consideration the social objectives even during the harshest circumstances the homeland may experience. The state's dealings with them will be diferent. Those who lose the support of the state and society, even if they make profits within a specific period of time, will be the losers in the future. But if all keep in mind the attainment of even a small part of the social objective, the state and society will continue to encourage the private sector.

The private sector in general and the trading sector in particular have lost society's support in this stage. Although trading activities have existed in Iraq since time immemorial, I believe that the merchants have never lost the support of society at any stage of Iraq's history like they have done at this stage. The masses used to support the merchants and criticize the socialist sector. But the masses now want socialist activities to save them from the greed of the greedy, or from those to whom this description applies. If some merchants have gained money, they lost in social standing. For example, students in schools look down on merchants. Fellow teachers look differently now at a merchant's wife if she is a teacher.

Our approach is to establish love among the people and this can only take place if one obtains rights that are compatible with the duties one performs whether through the performance of intellectual, physicial efforts [word indistinct] additional perils that falls on this or that person.

When love toward a sector of people decreases, we are the losers. We are not pleased. This is because we want trade and businessmen to be present in society. We do not want to follow the example of the states which made such an error. Whenever it was able to create a socialist activity with a technician [word indistinct], it would do so replacing private activity. It was [word indistinct] to the contrary. We have said that if private activity was not present, we should create it to complement socialist activity, to compete with and complement it in order to attain a happy society through the two activities. We are displeased to see people in society who are looked upon in an uneasy manner. For example, if the state had taken its hands off protection ten years ago we would not have found anyone robbing businessmen. However, now, when the state says that it is neutral, businessmen would be robbed of their clothes. Is this the society we want? The answer is no. This is something we cannot allow.

If someone robs another person, we cut off his hand according to the law that cuts off the head. (?I do not want to be rude.) I have given an example of some people who are not noble. So far, many people have not noticed the effect of genuineness. The merchant who respects himself does not get involved in an activity that is based on exploitation. I asked some people about the work they do. They said that they [words indistinct]. God forbid,

they said. They said that they fear God, because the money [words indistinct] from such trade is illegal, and that God might punish them by making their children sick. They said that they also pay [words indistinct] for the money they gather from such trade.

I thought that these kinds of people continue with this because they have been merchants for a long time. But, it appeared that they stopped their work for the reasons which I have just mentioned.

We have great hope that the genuine merchants guide and enlighten the people and that they make the plans to prevent those opportunist merchants from taking a position that would harm them. Such merchants want to become rich no matter what the price. They believe that this is [words indistinct] in life. They, however, do not know that this will torture them. They, for example, would spend much money on their sons in a way that will lead those sons to the road of crime. Thus, those merchants will lose their sons and the happiness of the whole family. Or, they will destroy their sons and make them lose the [word indistinct], moral, or psychological capability to deal properly with society. Therefore, they would lose what is more important than money.

We will follow up your activity in accordance with two criteria; it should be economically sound and socially targeted.

For your activity to be true from an economic angle and achieve its objectives from a social angle, it should not be built on the capability of the state to provide you with opportunities in a way that is cheaper than the usual price or without a price. God forbid that you should be like that. I am only giving this as an example so that you can visualize the situation. You are part of the society and the state, and the oundations of the state are three, which are: the people, that is the society; the badge and the homeland, and as part of our joint objective is to create a happy society, which is the happy people. [sentence as received]

This objective is part of our joint entity. This is because all of us take part in creating a happy society, but this should not make you look for an easy way. We have textiles, for example. There is no harm in you taking up this profession but we should also think [word indistinct] something new.

It is also part of our approach to have the private sector in the field of textiles and clothes. These should be displayed correctly and at moderate prices and should be decorated. So it is not our intention to deprive the private sector of any yard of cloth to give it to the cooperatives, but the private sector now imports and purchases from the market. So if the social aim is being achieved by cooperative societies and not the private sector [word indistinct], then it is natural that we should be inclined toward the cooperatives because the authority and [word indistinct] agencies contribute to the social aim, along with the cooperatives.

As we have said, cooperative activity does not mean that we alone should act as a middleman to distribute land because citizens would not benefit from this, as long as they get land from the state at token prices. Perhaps you at the cooperatives also sell land at token prices, added to it a marginal profit of your agencies. This is because you have cars which need gas, and you have a headquarters and staff. Thus, you will have gotten rid of this subject and the state will be responsible for it at token prices. And sometimes decisions are issued giving away lands at no price.

So this is the objective. You should work hard to make your economic activity correct, that is, to make profit. Here, there is a difference between the profit you make and that which others make, and I would not say here everybody else. This is because you seek to achieve a social objective while others want only to achieve a personal aim.

I want you to take care of this correct balance between correct economic activity and achieving correct social objectives in accordance with the principles of the revolution.

Saddam Husayn Meets Iranian Resistance Leader

JN1706171492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Mas'ud Rajavi, head of the Central Council of the Iranian resistance movement, and the delegation accompanying him.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Rajavi said that he communicated to the leader president the denunciation by the Iranian progressive political movements and masses of the air raid launched by the Iranian regime on Iraqi territory.

He added that Iranian national movements and their masses strongly denounce the Iranian regime's alliance with U.S. imperialism, world Zionism, and regional reactionaries to launch aggression against Iraq, participate in the blockade on it, and interfere in the domestic affairs of this safe, steadfast country in the interests of colonialist schemes and conspiracies.

He added that this exposed rapprochement of the Iranian rulers by the West shows the falsity of their claims about being hostile to colonialism and Zionism, and clearly indicates their backward approach by standing in the face of progress and struggle for the liberation of the peoples of the region.

Concluding his statement, he said that the Iranian masses will continue to escalate their struggle against this bloody terrorism, exploitation, and control by the remnants of the Khomeyni regime. He added that the Iranians' struggle against the ruling clique and the exposure of its suspect links with colonialism and regional reactionaries—after its attempts to conceal these links

for more than a decade by using claims that are incompatible with the nature and size of these links—have made things reach a degree that augurs for the removal of that regime and the establishment of a democratic popular authority on Iranian territory.

Memo to UN—U.S. Planes Set Fire to Harvest

JN1706094492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] New York, 17 Jun (INA)—Iraq has strongly condemned U.S. aircraft's cowardly acts of setting fire to Iraqi agricultural produce and hindering the harvest that is now taking place.

An INA correspondent in New York cited a protest memorandum presented to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali yesterday as saying that on 7 June a U.S. plane dropped a flaming torch on agricultural land where the [word indistinct] harvest of the Bakhaira area was being collected. On 9 June a U.S. plane dropped flaming torches on the edge of a valley near agricultural lands in the subdistrict of Muhallabiyah.

The memorandum adds that on 10 June a fire broke out in the plantations of the village of Tarjalah [name as received], in Kalak subdistrict of Ninawa Governorate, as a result of flaming torches dropped by U.S. planes.

The Iraqi protest memorandum says that these cowardly, hostile acts represent a flagrant and unjustified violation. They also show the falsehood of the (?U.S) null and suspect claims that these planes are engaged in acts of surveillance pursuant to Security Council resolutions. The acts also provide unequivocal proof that there are premeditated intentions to harm our people and their private property.

'Cowardly' U.S. 'Crime' Condemned

JN1706172992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—The U.S. Administration has committed a new crime to be added to the crime of the economic blockade on Iraq, when attacking U.S. aircraft set fire to thousands of dunums of territory planted with wheat and barley in villages near the city of Mosul.

An official spokesman at the Ministry of Culture and Information told INA that the aircraft of criminal Bush dropped flares on wheat and barley fields. He added that some aircraft flew at very low altitudes and deliberately turned on their afterburners over sacks of harvested cereals in the fields, causing huge fires that damaged thousands of tonnes of the cereals.

The spokesman said that these cowardly acts can only be taken as evidence of the despair and hysteria that seized the criminal Bush administration when it saw Iraq strong and sound and challenging, patiently and loftily, U.S.-Zionist aggression, and pursuing its gigantic steps along the path of reconstruction.

Saddam Inspects Ba'th Party Reconstruction Work

JN1706173592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1641 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today inspected the work that the good men are carrying out to repair the destruction the evildoers inflicted on the headquarters of the Ba'th Party's National Command and the Iraq Command during the barbaric aggression that was carried out by the colonialist and Zionist forces against great Iraq and its noble people in a vicious attempt to liquidate Iraq's mainstays, milestones of civilization, and revolutionary landmarks.

The president was extremely satisfied with the accomplishments that his sons the engineers, the technicians, and workers have each undertaken within the field of his speciality in the reconstruction of this landmark of civilization in record time to once again place that building in the limelight despite the aggressors wish in view of what the building represents in terms of pan-Arab meanings and militant concepts of the Iraqi people's struggle and their vanguard the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In his democratic dialogue with the construction strugglers, President Saddam Husayn said that all the Iraqis have seen the destruction that was inflicted on the National Command building and the headquarters of the Iraq Command and are well aware of the extent of destruction that has befallen the building. Now, after 129 days of uninterrupted work, the Iraqis will realize their potential in the field of reconstruction when they pass the building and note how and what the men are doing as well as their ability to reconstruct what the agressors have destroyed. God be with you.

Rebels Claim Regime Manufacturing Tanks in Baghdad

NC1706212392 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The failing 'Aflaqite regime is trying to manufacture tanks using medium-level technology at the aluminum civilian factory in Baghdad because of the losses it has suffered at the hands of our courageous mujahidin. According to our military sources, the tank can reach speeds of up to 120 km per hour [as heard]. The regime wants to get the tank out quickly to our areas of operations, where we are fighting the regime's henchmen and its repressive institutions.

Our military sources stress that these tanks lack the technology of the Soviet-made tanks used by the Iraqi Armed Forces. They add that the so-called Military Industrialization Authority in the factory have manufactured decoy tanks to scare off the mujahidin, who have inflicted bitter defeats on the Saddamite remnants in all the battles fought by our heroic popular troops.

Hostage Affair in Lebanon 'Not Over'

TA1706144292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli defense sources said that as long as the problem of the Israeli POW's and MIA's is not resolved, the Lebanese hostage affair will not be over. Israel expects Iran to use its influence in Lebanon. Our army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum reports:

Israel welcomes the release of two German hostages, just as it welcomes the release of every hostage in Lebanon. Defense sources nevertheless reiterated that the hostage affair would not be over until the problem of the Israeli POW's and MIA's was resolved.

No progress has been made recently on the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's, especially regarding navigator Ron Arad. A source in the defense establishment clarified that Israel considers Iran an influential element that can make a significant contribution toward resolving the problem. Israel expects Iran to employ its influence in the region.

Commenting on UN envoy Giandomenico Picco's statement that efforts would now be focused on the issue of the Israelis, the source said that Picco's very own remarks testified as to where he had focused his efforts up till now. The source, however, refused to directly criticize the UN emissary's efforts, saying that it would be unwise to do so, especially since the UN has exerted great efforts to resolve the problem of the POW's and MIA's in our region.

Lubrani on MIA's, POW's

TA1706164992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good evening, Mr. Uri Lubrani, member of the fact-finding team on the Israeli MIA's and POW's in Lebanon.

[Lubrani] Good evening.

[Gay] So, we are alone out there.

[Lubrani] Yes, but it was to be expected. As far as we are concerned, however, as long as we are not satisfied and our POW's and MIA's are not back home, we will continue making every effort to promote this issue.

[Gay] What do you mean by every effort? What else could be done that has not been done so far?

[Lubrani] Primarily, what was done is done. I will not go into details about what was and is being done, but many people are involved; some of them deal exclusively with this issue. We will not let go of it until we have reached the end of the affair.

[Gay] Is it more difficult now to get the assistance of the Western superpowers: the United States, Germany, and other countries?

[Lubrani] I believe that when it comes to this issue, we must take into account that we have only ourselves to rely on. Everyone is busy with his own affairs and has his own interests in mind. This is a very tough and difficult business, and if we do not invest all that we can in it, we will never see the end of the affair. We have to try to get others to help us. It is clear to me that any assistance will be of use, but we should in no way rely on this.

Please, allow me to praise the announcement Giandomenico Picco made in Beirut today that he will continue with his efforts to free the rest of the POW's. He did not say exactly who, but there are no others left but ours.

[Gay] Let us just mention the people in question.

[Lubrani] We are talking about three MIA's from the war of Lebanon: Feldman, Baumel, and Katz; about Ron Arad; and the bodies of Fink and Alshekh.

[Gay] Thank you, Mr. Lubrani, and I hope we will talk about good news soon.

[Lubrani] I hope so. Thank you.

Deputy Minister To Meet Egyptian President 18 Jun

TA1706172792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Menahem Porush, deputy labor and social affairs minister, is leaving for Egypt tomorrow to meet with President Husni Mubarak upon the latter's invitation. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the invitation was conveyed by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni and the visit was coordinated with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Porush said that President Mubarak wished to learn about the Yahadut Hatora faction's positions on the peace talks and the political process. Porush will return to Israel tomorrow evening.

[Jerusalem Israel Television in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 17 June carries a similar report which adds that "Rabbi Porush will carry a message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Egyptian president."]

Gorbachev 'Welcomes' New U.S.-Russian Agreement

TA1706112392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Mikhail Gorbachev is today touring southern Israel. While touring Kibbutz 'En Gedi, he told our correspondent Dan Eshel that he welcomes the U.S.-Russian agreement to destroy two-thirds of the nuclear weapons in their possession. Dan Eshel is on the phone to report:

I asked Mikhail Gorbachev about the wisdom of the unilateral step taken by the superpowers—dismantling

two-thirds of their nuclear weapons—before the rest of the world has taken a similar step. He replied: I am familiar with the issue. Even with only one-third of their present nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union [as heard] and the United States would still be strong superpowers. Such an agreement makes it possible to put the question of the nuclear disarmament of all the nuclear powers on the agenda. The position of the two superpowers enables the international community, the superpowers, and the United Nations to demand stricter controls on nuclear proliferation. Gorbachev added: I understand the fears that lie behind your question. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegate Given 6 Months Detention

TA1606151992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The security forces put Walid Zakut, 30, a resident of Gaza and a member of the advisory council to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, under six months' administrative detention. Zakut is identified with the Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, our correspondent Moti Amir reports.

Al-Husayni—Palestinians Ready to Continue Talks

TA1706165192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni said that the Palestinians are ready to continue the peace talks without a break, until all their disagreements with Israel were resolved. We are willing to attend frequent rounds of talks lasting three or four weeks even before a permanent government is established in Israel, he said. Al-Husayni also referred to the internecine killings among Palestinians. He admitted that this was a serious problem that must be fought with every possible means. Our correspondent Gil Yerushalmi reports:

In his remarks today, Faysal al-Husayni refused to reveal his personal preferences regarding the composition of the future Israeli Government. He was willing to say, however, that in his opinion, a Labor-led government would show greater readiness to discuss the interim agreements on autonomy for the Palestinians.

Al-Husayni called for consecutive rounds of peace talks. He said that these should not be convened for short periods but should be conducted as a lengthy, continuous debate. We are ready to hold negotiations for three or four weeks, he said, until we can work out the problems between us and Israel. Al-Husayni added that the Palestinians would be willing to sit down at the negotiating table even before a permanent government was established following the elections in Israel.

Commenting on the widespread executions of collaborators in the Palestinian street, al-Husayni admitted that this was a very serious problem. While placing part of the blame on Israel, he called for an all-out war against the phenomenon. Al-Husayni noted the Fatah's reservations regarding these killings and the steps it had taken to stop them.

PLO Said To Urge Mi'ari To Quit Knesset Race

TA1706150592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, head of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP], today revealed a document sent by 'Arafat's deputy, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], to Muhammad Mi'ari, head of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP]. In the document, Abu-Mazin, for fear of losing thousands of Arab votes, demands that Mi'ari quit the Knesset race. Our correspondent Uri Revah reports from Nazareth:

[Begin recording] [Revah] The deep rift and split between the PLP and the ADP has forced the PLO to intervene in the struggle for the Arab vote. At a news conference in Nazareth today, ADP head 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah claimed that he has a copy of a letter that the PLO's Abu-Mazin sent PLP head Muhammad Mi'ari, in which Mi'ari is asked to quit the race for the 13th Knesset. Darawshah claims that highly authoritative sources confirmed that the letter was indeed sent.

Muhammad Darawshah, head of the ADP reactions team, reported that the PLO fears that thousands of Arab votes may be lost because of the rift between the two parties.

[Darawshah] The letter sent by Abu-Mazin, the No. 2 man in the PLO, asks Mi'ari to quit the Knesset race because this might result in the loss of some 30,000 to 40,000 Arab votes to the PLP. The Arab public tends not to vote for the PLP because it is a powerless party. In the PLO they believe that it might cause the Israeli Arabs to lose two Knesset seats.

[Revah] Until this time, MK Mi'ari was unavailable for comment. [end recording]

PLO Will Not 'Intervene' in Elections

TA1806103692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A representative of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP], Khalid Badr, says PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has informed Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Mi'ari, who heads the PLP, that the PLO does not intend to intervene in the Knesset elections and that it is up to Israeli Arabs themselves to decide for whom to vote.

Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, Khalid Badr said 'Arafat's statement came in a letter from Amman that arrived this morning. Yesterday, rival MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, of the Arab Democratic Party, said he received a letter from the No. 2 man in the PLO, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], that called on MK Mi'ari to drop out of the election in order not to waste Arab votes.

Compromise on Deportation Order Being Considered

TA1706122092 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] Prospective deportees from the territories will have their deportation orders canceled, and they will leave the territories for a period of three years. That proposal, the first of its kind in 25 years, is being worked out between the state prosecutor's office and the prospective deportees.

Deportation orders have been issued against 11 Palestinians, seven from the Gaza Strip and five from the West Bank [numbers as published]. All 11 appealed to the High Court of Justice against the orders, and the appeals have been set for 24 June.

The orders have been sharply criticized around the world, and if implemented they might result in a Security Council resolution sharply denouncing Israel. The expulsions would be untimely for Israel also because of the peace process.

In an effort to work out a compromise so that the government and the defense establishment do not appear to be pulling back or yielding on the issue of getting the people out of the territories, the state prosecutor's office has made an offer to the attorneys for the prospective deportees to replace the deportation with an agreement to leave voluntarily.

Under the arrangement, if it is accepted by the candidates for expulsion, the deportation orders will be officially canceled. The 11 candidates will be permitted to return to their homes for 48 hours and will present a normal request, called "a green request," to leave the country, as does each Palestinian from the territories who wants to leave the country.

Upon receiving permission to leave, the deportees will sign a commitment not to return for three years, most probably starting from the day the deportation order was issued. It is still possible that they will be permitted to come back for summer visits. Leaving for three years does not affect residency rights.

As far as is known, there is still a dispute between the candidates for expulsion, who have been under detention for seven months. They are considering whether to accept the offer, which is better for them, though it makes matters somewhat "easier" for the Israeli Government. The candidates for deportation are leaning towards accepting the compromise, but they will make their decision today or tomorrow.

Another proposal raised during the contacts between the state prosecutor and the attorneys was to convert the deportation orders into extended administrative detentions, but that was rejected by the attorneys.

The attorneys accept the proposal to leave for three years because it makes life easier for their clients and also because it constitutes a retreat by the Israeli Government.

Prospective Deportees Accept Compromise

TA1706161092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The defense establishment has proposed that the seven prospective deportees from the Gaza Strip sign an agreement of voluntary deportation for three years. A Gaza Strip attorney told our correspondent Moti Amir that according to the proposal, Israel would promise to cancel the deportation orders against them and to release them for 48 hours so that they could meet with their families. Afterwards, the seven would be deported from Israel but would be permitted an annual one-month visit to their homes. Three of the deportees: Ihab al-Ashqar, Sami Abu-Samahdanah, and Khadr Muhjiz, agreed to these conditions. The four other deportees are considering the proposal. Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn, who represents the prospective deportees, said that this is the first time that Israel has expressed willingness to revoke deportation orders. In his opinion this is the result of international pressure.

Defense Source Denies Compromise

TA1806111892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 92 pp A1, A10

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Three of the 11 prospective Palestinian deportees—whose appeal is scheduled to be heard before the High Court of Justice immediately after the elections—have accepted the defense establishment's proposal that they agree to a three-year period of voluntary exile in return for the cancellation of the deportation order against them. This claim was made yesterday by one of their attorneys, Furayh Abu-Middayn, who is also a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. [passage omitted]

A senior source at Defense Minister Moshe Arens' bureau said that he knows nothing of such a proposal. Justice Ministry spokesman Eti Eshed and Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, refused to comment on the report. Eshed said that the state's reply will only be issued after the hearing at the High Court of Justice. Other sources pointed out that the political echelon has not yet authorized the proposal.

NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Levi yesterday issued a reaction in which he asked: "Could it be that the defense establishment has become a travel agency which specializes in turning out travel agents?" Levi said that "this 'gentlemen's agreement' is a shameful, stupid thing which is a sign of weakness and of having lost our way. Such a step may shatter the foundations of our security and moral tenets

and constitute a dangerous precedent for capitulation which we will regret for generations to come." [passage omitted]

Palestinian 'Solidarity Society' in Territories

TA1706184692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] A number of prominent figures in the territories have set up a new socio-political apparatus comprising 178 members from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, headed by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the advisory committee to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that this apparatus will operate under the name of the Palestinian Social Solidarity Society and has opened branches in towns, villages, and refugee camps. The initiators of the idea have asked for a permit from the authorities so that the society will be able to function in the territories. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash told our correspondent that the society is a mechanism for reconciliation in Palestinian society.

Labor To Cut Settlement Funds, Invest in Roads

TA1606124592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 92 p A4

[ITIM report]

[Text] "If a Labor-led government is established, we will take 30 days to examine the issue of investments in the territories and will immediately stop transferring money to them." This remark was made last night by Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Shohat at a Tel Aviv news conference.

Shohat added that Halting investments in the territories will make large sums of money available for much-needed economic projects. "With this money, and the loan guarantees and European aid we will receive, I believe we will be able to lead the economy to more profitable venues."

MK Shohat further said that there are issues which a Labor government will have to attend to immediately. "Today some 700 million shekels are annually invested in roads inside the Green Line. In the first year, and in those that will follow, we will have to invest some 1.5 billion shekels to eliminate the gaps that have been created in recent years. Investment in improved roads will lead to the creation of new jobs and better attitudes among investors, encouraging them to invest in remote places."

Peace Now—Likud Conceals Building in Territories

TA1706171192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Report by Gil Litman]

[Text] Not only has the construction rate in the settlements not decreased in the months prior to the elections, but the opposite is true. The Peace Now movement made this claim in its quarterly report. The report presents data that Peace Now claims proves its assertion that the government has continued accelerated construction work in the territories during April, May, and the beginning of June. Here are some of the figures unearthed by Peace Now's settlement patrol: Work on 4,000 new apartments has begun in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip since the beginning of 1992. Since the beginning of April, there have been over 2,500 new housing starts. The settlement campaign launched in April by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is dying out, Peace Now claimed. The guided tours to encourage people to purchase apartments were stopped in May due to a lack of demand. The Council of Jewish Settlements, however, described the settlement campaign as a tremendous success. Over 2,100 candidates already have bought apartments in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, a council spokesman said, although many of the apartments have still not been connected to the electricity and water grids, and some of them exist only on paper.

More details from the Peace Now report: Two new settlements have been established since the beginning of April, one near Kfar Adumim, and another, Netzarim Bet, in the Gaza Strip. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip retorted: This is a new neighborhood near Kfar Adumim and it was legally approved by the government. The situation in Netzarim Bet is the same, and the government also approved the establishment of a new neighborhood there.

Peace Now states in conclusion that the prime minister and his colleagues know that the majority of the public are opposed to the spending of funds in the territories. Therefore, the Israeli Government has been concealing this aspect of its activity in its election propaganda.

In response, the Council of Jewish Settlements replied that Peace Now is continuing to disseminate lies and fabrications. The settlement campaign in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has proven to be a success, and the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will pursue its activities to expand Jewish settlement in these areas.

Ashkenazi Party, SHAS Exchange Barbs

TA1806053892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The two major haredi ultra-Orthodox parties held large gatherings last night in Tel Aviv. The predominantly Ashkenazi United Torah Judaism party blasted the secular community, while the Sephardi SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] condemned the Ashkenazi community. David Ze'ev reports:

United Torah Judaism gathered at the Yad Eliyahu sports arena in Tel Aviv last night with great anticipation over what spiritual leader Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach would say in his address. Rabbi Schach refrained from attacks

on the SHAS party this time but, as he has in the past, sharply criticized secular Israelis. He said that yeshiva torah institutes are what builds up the country, and he does not know what the point is of adding factories or of the Army, when the future of the country lies in religious education. He said the secular community has lost its right to the world to come.

The president of the Council of Torah Sages, the admor [rebbe] of Wiznicz, in his address said there should be separate buses for men and women. He called the situation especially troubling during the summer months, when Orthodox Jews have no choice but to see women in immodest dress. He described this as antireligious coercion.

Over at the Cinerama in Tel Aviv, the SHAS convention was marked by bitter attacks against the Ashkenazim, as well as on the left and the National Religious Party. Interior Minister Arye Der'i, who tops the SHAS list, said the entire Knesset is busy only with antireligious issues. He called the left: murderers of the religion.

Spiritual leader Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef singled out Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni as being antireligious. Rabbi Yosef also spoke out against the Ashkenazim for not backing up the Sephardi community.

Meanwhile, within the predominantly Ashkenazi United Torah Party list there is dissension. Rabbi Avraham Ravitz says Menahem Porush's trip to Egypt is without the knowledge of the party leadership and that Rabbi Porush will be expressing his own personal views in his discussions and not those of the party. The visit has apparently taken others in the party by surprise as well, and there is said to be criticism of Porush for making the visit so close to election day.

Objectives, Needs of Intelligence Service Noted

TA1706084292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Brigadier General Doron Tamir, the chief intelligence officer, has said that satellites are not a panacea for Israel's intelligence problems and has noted that the Intelligence Corps is trying to develop its ability to follow events in distant places. In a special interview on Intelligence Corps Day, Gen. Tamir said that he foresees a shortage of Arabic-speaking soldiers, which might affect the Intelligence Corps. Our military affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum reports:

[Begin recording] [Baum] As a result of the Gulf war, the Intelligence Corps moved the focus of its attention to objectives and issues that had lain dormant in the past, Gen. Tamir said. The conventional arms race, in general, and the nonconventional arms race pursued by our immediate neighbors have compelled the Intelligence Corps to develop a long-distance collection and analysis capability. It has become particularly imperative to follow distant countries, such as North Korea and other countries in East Asia, which supply weapons to our region.

Gen. Tamir believes that satellites alone will not meet Israel's future intelligence needs, and that only comprehensive restructuring will enable us to monitor the military buildup and the flow of arms to our region.

[Tamir] It is our job to find out what is happening, to ascertain the destination and the quality of weapons, as well as the impact of their acquisition by the enemy. For example, Syria has received hundreds of modern tanks, and it stands to get many more. Our job is to ascertain the impact of those weapons and the extent of the threat they pose. I am citing Syria as an example, but it is not the only one.

[Baum] The Intelligence Corps is called upon to develop its manpower concurrently with its technological development. In the future, all junior intelligence officers will study in an university-level intelligence college. The Intelligence Corps today recruits people with multilingual skills, Gen. Tamir said.

[Tamir] In view of the expansion of our areas of interest, it is only natural that we need people with multilingual skills. We have a problem with that, mainly with Arabic-speaking people. Fewer people learn Arabic at home, which means we have to make a greater effort to teach that language so that we can do our job.

[Baum] To cope with the shortage of Arabic-speaking soldiers, the Intelligence Corps today is trying to improve and encourage the teaching of Arabic in schools, Gen. Tamir said. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Buwayz Welcomes Hostage Release

NC1706122392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, currently in Brazil, expressed joy at the conclusion of the hostage issue, which had a negative effect on Lebanon's credibility and international relations. He also thanked the regional parties that helped Lebanon restore its international credibility.

Birri Says South 'Real Hostage'

NC1706123292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Nabih Birri, state minister and Amal Movement leader, commented today about the release of the two German hostages. He said that the south is the real hostage, which is still in detention and under siege daily from constant Israeli attacks.

While expressing joy at the release of the last foreign hostages in Lebanon, Birri stated that the Israeli enemy destroyed the Arnun Mosque club at the time the hostages were being released. He called on the U.S. Administration to denounce Israel, which does not respect the sanctity of religious shrines.

As Minister Birri said, the occupation forces attacked the people's possessions today. Our correspondent reported this morning that Israeli occupation forces bulldozed the mosque club and three adjacent houses in Arnun last night. Our correspondent added that Israeli bulldozers are still in the township as a clear signal of the enemy's intention to attack other houses.

French Foreign Minister on Syrian Withdrawal

NC1706201392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas stated that Syria might be prepared to withdraw partially from Lebanon if the situation in southern Lebanon near Israel calms down. Everything depends on the situation as a whole, he said, adding that France wants to see free elections in Lebanon under international supervision as soon as possible. It is important, he said, that Lebanon be allowed to express itself freely one way or another.

French, Syrian Views 'Not Identical'

NC1806065892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas stated that the situation in Lebanon will become clear by the end of this year following the Lebanese and Israeli elections. He also noted that French and Syrian views on Lebanon are not identical.

Dumas was speaking during a meeting with a number of French, Arab, and foreign correspondents yesterday under the auspices of the Diplomatic Press Association.

Talks With Creditor Countries Decrease Debt

NC1706133092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The Parliamentary Finance and Budget Committee met today under Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir, who announced that talks with creditor countries slashed Lebanon's debts from $160 million to $38 million. The remaining debt will be rescheduled.

Defense Minister Welcomes EC Releasing Aid

NC1706133292 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr today met the French and British ambassadors in Lebanon. Al-Murr noted the EC's statement following the handover of the German hostages, to release $256 million in aid to Lebanon, including approximately $40 million as a grant, the remainder in long-term loans. He said this extremely important step will help boost the economy and will affect the dollar's exchange rate. Al-Murr added: We are awaiting further steps because there is no longer any justification for not assisting Lebanon.

Editorial Warns Libyans Not To Reject Arab Unity

PM1706143092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13-14 Jun 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Libya and the Regional Reaction"]

[Text] Libya's leader is entitled to show bitterness toward the Arabs, and his country's state-owned press is entitled to talk about the Arab failure in the face of the current blockade against his country; but they have no right to draw the conclusions that they have at such an emotionally charged time. In other words, they have no right to turn their backs on Arabism and Arab unity, to sound a regional retreat, and to blame the Libyan Government's pan-Arab policies for all Libya's ills and for its problems, old and new.

If we examine the Arab political map we will find that almost all Arabs—and here we are talking about the people—are suffering, just like the Libyan people, from an unprecedented imperialist starvation blockade. At least the Libyan people export their oil and receive daily revenue from it, and they can buy whatever goods and luxuries they want. Their stores are full of goods and food, but the fraternal people of Iraq cannot export oil and cannot find food. They have had difficult times and suffered 40 days of bombardment by 3,000 planes which dropped over 100,000 tons of bombs.

The Jamahiriyah has done much for the Arabs, and it applied Arab unity when it opened its borders to all Arabs, abolished customs duties and entry visas, and put all Arab citizens on a par with Libyan citizens. Its entire people demonstrated in solidarity with Iraq and opposed the destruction of that fraternal Arab country. Therefore the Libyan people have every right to expect a similar stand by the Arabs against the unjust blockade that they

now face. The plot of Arab popular and official silence about the designs hatched against that Arab country is a brand of shame on this nation's face.

However, we disagree with the Libyan press and news agency calls for a popular reaction against the Arabs, and we disagree with their view which blames the Libyan Government's pan-Arab policies. That is an unacceptable oversimplification of the realities and an unjustifiable charge.

What the Libyan people are suffering cannot possibly be equal to what has happened to Lebanon, which is daily paying the price for its resitance and for upholding Arab and Islamic dignity. Israeli planes raid South Lebanese villages every day, destroying the homes of their innocent inhabitants around their heads. In the occupied territory, the intifadah has entered its 55th month. The Arabs of the occupied territory—only with faith, pride, and adherence to Arab and Islamic values—continue to carry out resistance operations day and night, without any real Arab support and without Arab armies crossing rivers and seas to liberate them, as some Arabs have promised and are still promising.

We realize how frustrated the Libyan brothers—both people and government—are, and we comprehend and try to understand their reaction, but we wish that they would equally understand the circumstances of this nation and the source of its ills, namely, the group of Arab rulers who are addicted to subservience to the West and to surrender to its designs.

Every Arab will continue to aspire to Arab unity, which is this nation's source of strength and its only hope of progress and a place among other nations. If the nation is not ready now for such unity and revival, this will certainly not always be the case.

The Libyan brothers are entitled to put their regional interests before pan-Arab interests, as some Arabs have done, but we are also entitled to ask them to differentiate between the Arabs who have sold themselves totally to the Americans and the Arabs who are daily paying the price for opposing U.S. hegemony.

Buwayz on Solving Problems Before Elections

NC1706193092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stated that the government should solve a number of problems, including that of the displaced persons, before holding parliamentary elections. Failure to do so, he added, will result in a problem regarding representation. Buwayz said that the government should also be fair in giving candidates media access, keeping in mind that a large part of the Lebanese media belongs to militias.

If the government finds it difficult to give expatriates the right to participate in the policies of their country, Buwayz noted, it should figure out a way to do it. Initially, it should give those who temporarily reside abroad the opportunity to participate in the process until a mechanism is established that allows the largest number of Lebanese in the diaspora to join the process. Participation in the process is a right every Lebanese citizen should have, regardless of where he is, he noted.

Buwayz made these remarks during a ceremony held in his honor and attended by more than 500 Lebanese expatriates at the Monte Lebanon Club in Rio De Janiero.

Bra'shit Under 'Intense' Israeli Fire

NC1706191792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The town of Bra'shit is undergoing intense heavy-caliber machine-gun fire from Israeli positions on Tallat Bra'shit. The Israeli forces set up a mobile checkpoint in Arnun near a pond and are checking identification cards.

Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah at approximately 1430 today.

Al-Rahayat Area Shelled

NC1806072492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The al-Rahayat area in western al-Biqa' was shelled last night at 2000. Eight shells, fired from the Agent artillery position in Ibil al-Saqy, fell on the area.

Israeli Statement on 'Tacit Agreement' Denied

PM1706152092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Jun 92 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Syrian Source Rejects Israeli Air Force Commander's Allegations"]

[Text] Damascus, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—A senior Syrian source has ridiculed the Israeli Air Force commander's assertion that there is a "tacit agreement" with Damascus to grant Israeli aircraft unrestricted freedom to operate in Lebanon.

The Syrian source said that the Israeli general's statement was merely idle talk similar to the lies and intrigues which Israel is working to spread so as to shake Arabs' confidence in one another.

The source added: How can such an allegation stand up, when the conflict between Syria and Israel is virtually all-embracing? When Syria displays self-restraint in the face of Israeli provocations, it is because it does not want to make Israel free to impose on it its own decision for war in terms of time and place.

Israel, the source went on, is seeking by every means to escalate the situation in order to destroy the peace process, which is why it is waging war on that process, using guns and aircraft, as well as slander and lies. "Thus, there can be no agreement between us and Israel as long as it occupies Arab territories."

Israeli Election Results 'Will Change Nothing'

JN1806063492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the press review]

[Text] An article entitled "The Tendency Toward Aggression," appearing in today's issue of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, stresses that there is no difference between the Israeli Labor Party and the Likud coalition, nor are there hawks and doves in Israel. When it comes to expansionist schemes and dreams to establish Greater Israel, says the article, all Israeli parties are the same.

The paper adds: Although the Israeli parties sometimes adopt different positions on some political issues, it is an established fact that these differences cannot take precedence over the major Zionist goal, nor can they affect the basic principle of Israel's policy of expansion, annexation, and Judaization at the expense of the Arabs, their lands, and their existence. The results of the Israeli elections, therefore, will change nothing.

Al-Shar' Urges Resumed EC Aid to Lebanon

JN1806062492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed hope that the release of the two German hostages in Lebanon, Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig, will prompt the international community, especially the EC, to help the Lebanese Government in its efforts to reconstruct Lebanon.

A REUTER correspondent in Istanbul quoted Mr. al-Shar', who is attending the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers, as saying: Financial assistance to Lebanon was withheld in the past because of the Western hostages. Now, however, there are no Western hostages in Lebanon, and I hope this will remove obstacles to the resumption of assistance to Lebanon pledged by the EC.

Mr. al-Shar' said that the kidnappers released the two German hostages after joint efforts by Syria, Iran, and some other parties in Lebanon. He called for the release of all Lebanese prisoners held by Israel. The foreign minister said the hostage crisis sprang from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Iran

President Rejects Culture Minister's Resignation

NC1806083892 Paris AFP in English 0807 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 18 (AFP) - Iran's president has rejected the resignation of Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami-Ardakani, following criticism of his liberal attitude, a pro-government daily reported Thursday.

Citing well informed sources, the English-language TEHRAN TIMES, said "a number of leading figures in journalistic and literary circles have expressed concern over" Khatami's reported resignation.

On Wednesday, the paper said that Khatami had offered his resignation to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani after being criticized in press reports here for his "liberal" attitude. Khatami, who held the post since 1980, had been "under pressure from a section of the Persian press (that) has recently been criticizing him for adopting a liberal attitude in the cultural field," the daily said.

Analysts said the resignation underlined the government's wish to regain control of a ministry where entire sections, notably in the Press and Information Department, had been reluctant to endorse Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy of openness.

President on ICO's Role in Helping Bosnia

LD1706162392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Sabah Zanganeh, the permanent envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], this morning. Pointing to the importance of cooperation and coordination among Islamic countries, he underlined our country's active participation in solving the difficulties of Muslims within the framework of this organization, especially with regard to the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which has been placed on the ICO's agenda at the Islamic Republic of Iran's request. [passage omitted]

Militia Mobilized To Halt Urban Unrest

NC1706144192 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Report by Kianousche Dorranie]

[Text] Tehran, June 17 (AFP)—Iranian authorities have mobilised Islamic militia across the country in a bid to halt further urban unrest and to curb what they have called "counter-revolutionary plots." The move is in response to violent demonstrations in April and May in the cities of Mashhad in the north, Arak in central Iran and Shiraz in the south. The unrest was sparked by incidents between members of the public and the local authorities.

The government, which has warned it will crush any further outbreaks, decided to form special urban security units within the Pasdaran (Revolutionary Guards), several local Pasdaran officials said. "Basiji" forces, volunteers who were active in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, will also join the special Pasdaran units and will be authorised to carry out military exercises and processions in much of the country, according to recent press reports.

Iranian newspapers have recently accorded increasing coverage to Basiji processions in large towns in several provinces, particularly those on the border with Iraq, stressing "their readiness to defend the revolution and its sacred values."

Iran's top military officials, along with Interior Minister 'Abdollah Hamid Nuri-Hoseynabadi, have gone to provincial troublespots in the last two weeks. Meanwhile, the Pasdaran have been reinforcing their presence in such areas in what newspapers say is an operation to prepare for "any eventuality."

Both the Islamic clergy and Iranian political leaders paid tribute to the Basiji after the recent unrest for their role in restoring public order, particularly in Mashhad where several members of the security forces were dismissed and prosecuted for having been soft on demonstrators.

President Rafsanjani in a public statement acknowledged that the people were dissatisfied because they were "facing (economic) difficulties." He warned that expressions of discontent could well recur and called on all government officials to be vigilant. But at the same time he appealed to authorities to "answer the population's urgent requests to avoid giving any excuse to the wrongdoers."

Eight people have been hanged for taking part in the disturbances. Dozens have been given jail sentences and others are currently being interrogated or are appearing before the country's revolutionary courts.

Government Increases Aid for Deprived Regions

LD1706164792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The sum of 245 billion rials has been allocated to eliminate hardship in the country's deprived areas this year. This figure has been increased considerably from the 166 billion rials of last year. The government has also made special provisions to encourage investment in these areas. Under new tax laws, production and industrial units set up in the country's deprived regions are exempt from paying tax for 14 years. Also, those who invest in the country's deprived regions will enjoy special banking provisions,

such as low-cost [karmozd-e pa'in] loans. They will also benefit from the support of the relevant ministries. [passage omitted]

Sattari Warns Israel Against 'Adventurism'

LD1706194792 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—The Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari today warned Israel that the Islamic Republic of Iran "is fully prepared to face any aggression." He said the Zionist regime was well aware that "any adventurism on its part against Iran would cost it dearly."

The commander made the remarks in an interview with IRNA following remarks made on June 15 by Israeli Air Force Chief Major General Herzl Bodinger that the Zionist state could attack any country introducing nuclear weapons into the Middle East. "I think Iran is growing gradually to be a threat, I think when they (are) sure they can do something in order to endanger the existence of Israel they will do," the commander said at a news conference in Tel Aviv. He also said that Iran could be a nuclear power in 10 years "unless stopped."

But General Sattari accused Israel of toeing the U.S. line in her propaganda policies, adding "it is clear to all countries that the claims made regarding Iran's nuclear activities are completely baseless and futile." He said Iranian officials had time and again reiterated that Iran's nuclear projects were merely for peaceful purposes and that representatives of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had confirmed this in their inspections of the Islamic Republic's nuclear installations.

IRNA Reports on Iraqi Opposition Meeting

LD1706174192 Tehran IRNA in English 0538 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Vienna, June 17, IRNA—The conference of representatives of Iraqi opposition groups to open here Wednesday is of special significance for the Iraqi people as it is the first meeting held on such a wide scale since the uprising in Iraq last year and following the recent Kurdish elections.

Laith Kubba of the London-based Iraq National Congress Committee which has organized the 3-day conference made the observation at a press briefing Tuesday.

During one of the tragic periods in the history of the Iraqi people, after the country had been forced into two destructive wars, Iraqis were without a voice, said Kubba. Iraqi groups and organizations therefore decided to meet to formulate a broad national agenda.

He pointed out that participants at the conference represented the Iraqi people, communities from the north to the south of the country, Arabs and Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis. "We have a credible representation," Kubba said.

He outlined the issues that would be discussed by the delegates to "create a representative, independent and credible political alternative for the Iraqi people."

Kubba further added "we would be looking at issues such as gurarantees for human rights and what needs to be done to bring about a national movement that will help the political process inside Iraq."

Referring to the elections in the Kurdish regions, Kubba said that fear of the future of most communities in Iraq who have suffered the consequences of Saddam Husayn's rule "to some extent is legitimate." Kubba described the election as an important factor in reassuring the Iraqis.

Saddam Husayn had played on that fear for a long time. The elections in Kurdistan did not lead to any fighting or squabbling, he said.

He said that the Congress intended to work closely with the elected authority inside Iraq. "We do not want to label ourselves as a government in exile." The Congress intended to tap on Iraqi resources world-wide and the support of Iraqi communities and to encourage the popular forces inside Iraq to get rid of Saddam Husayn.

"We will assist them with a visible leadership to bring about the necessary catalyst," he added.

He acknowledged that because of the hajj season some representatives could not attend the conference. "There was no exclusion on our part or any boycott by organizations," Kubba said.

The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Jalal Talabani arrived Tuesday to attend the meeting. Mohsen Dizaee, personal representative of Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party is also expected at the conference, according to the organizers.

Several Iraqi Army officers who defected after the uprising in Iraq are also attending the conference.

The organizers said that they had received a message of support from the Government of Saudi Arabia for the meeting's success.

Talabani Remarks on Saddam

LD1806071892 Tehran IRNA in English 0537 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Vienna, June 18, IRNA—Leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Jalal Talabani in an interview with Austrian radio Wednesday night said that Saddam Husayn is not as strong as he is depicted in the West. "He is facing many difficulties, political, economic and military crises. He is totally isolated from the Iraqi people, hated by the Kurds, Sunnis, Shi'ites, Turkomans and Assyrians. The contradictions within the system has been exacerbated." The Kurdish leader said that they are waiting for the opportune moment to mobilize the Iraqi people to end Saddam's dictatorship and replace it with a democratic system.

The aims of the Iraqi groups currently meeting in the Austrian capital, explained Talabani, are to unite all opposition forces, to present an alternative to the dictatorship, to mobilize Iraqis to overthrow Saddam Husayn's dictatorial rule and replace it with a democratic, parliamentary and pluralistic system, which can guarantee democratic rights for all Iraqi citizens and the right of self-determination for the Kurdish people within the framework of a democratic, united Iraq.

Asked whether the meeting of opposition groups would set up a government in exile, Talabani said "an interim government was on the agenda but not in exile. But if we reach agreement to form such a government—a government which must be a coalition—I think it will be inside Iraq, on the soil of liberated areas of Iraqi Kurdistan." Answering a question whether he would allow oil production from the Karkuk oil fields, if the United Nations and Iraqi representatives agreed on the resumption of oil sales, the Kurdish leader said "if U.N. Resolutions 706 and 712 were implemented we will agree. Because according to these resolutions there must be shares for the Kurds and Shi'ites provided that Iraq respects all resolutions including Resolutions 706 and 712 adopted by the U.N. Security Council."

Another spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress Committee, a member of a Shi'ite opposition group, Mohamed Mohamed 'Ali told the radio that after the uprising in Iraq the Iraqi Government had no legitimacy. "We think funds which serve the Iraqi people and provide them with food and medicine under the supervision of the U.N., is acceptable," he said. But if the funds are given directly to the government he feared they would not reach the people in need but would be distributed to promote the regime's military strategy and among its loyalists. Mohamed 'Ali said that their task in the opposition is to encourage movements inside and outside Iraq, and to liaise with the popular forces and the army within the country with whom they maintain direct links.

Meanwhile, at the end of the first plenary session of the Iraqi National Congress which was attended by 200 representatives of Iraqi groups from over 30 countries, Laith Kubba a spokesman for the organizers in a statement said that the delegates represented all the people of Iraq "in their desire to restore independence and territorial integrity of our nation as well as to ensure that the future of Iraq is guaranteed unity and stability."

Commentary: Hostage File Still Open in Lebanon

LD1806135992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0951 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Station political commentary: "The Release of the Last Western Hostages in Lebanon"]

[Text] The last Western hostages in Lebanon have been freed, but the file of Western hostages in that country has not closed. Three Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped in 1980 are still being held hostage.

With the release of two German hostages, the 10-year old Western hostage episode has ended. During this period, approximately 60 citizens of Western countries were taken as hostages. A small number of these succeeded in escaping, and 10 of the hostages died during their time in captivity.

Islamic organizations claimed responsibility for the majority of the abductions, referring to all their hostages as spies. Of course, this accusation was not so off the mark, because William Buckley—one of the American hostages who was executed following America's air attack against Libya—was the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency of America, known as the CIA, in Lebanon.

Over 30 hostage-taking organizations [sazman] protested against America's policies—notably its support for Israel—in their communiques. The Islamic Jihad Organization; the Islamic Justice Organization [Sazman-e Adalat-e Enqelabi]; the Islamic Jihad Organization of Palestine; and the Organization of the World's Oppressed [Sazman-e Mostaz'afan-e Jahan] were among the most famous hostage-taking organizations.

Some regional analysts believe that hostage-taking in Lebanon was related to internal developments in that country and the policies of some regional sides. In fact, it was a reaction to the international situation and an effort to protest against external powers that had a hand in the crisis of Lebanon and the region, notably in Palestine.

Out of the 60 people who were held hostage in the past 10 years, 19 of them were Americans, 13 were British, and 12 were French.

Western propoganda monopolies repeatedly accused Iran of being involved in taking Westerners as hostage in Lebanon. They deliberately forgot that Iran itself was a victim of hostage-taking in Lebanon. In addition, Iran used all its influence to free Western hostages. Some of the latter were exchanged with Lebanese and Palestinian captives. Over and over again, by attacking southern Lebanon exactly when a hostage was due to be released, the Zionist regime tried to obstruct this process and prevent a return to tranquillity.

In spite of Iran's endeavors—which have consistently attracted gratitude and thanks from the United Nations and Western countries—these governments have unfortunately not made any serious efforts toward releasing Iranian hostages in Lebanon.

The hostage-taking file in Lebanon is still open, because, apart from Iranian hostages, thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese hostages are held captive in the detention centers of Israel and are being tortured and killed under the worst conditions and behind the backs of organizations advocating support for human rights, such as the International Red Cross.